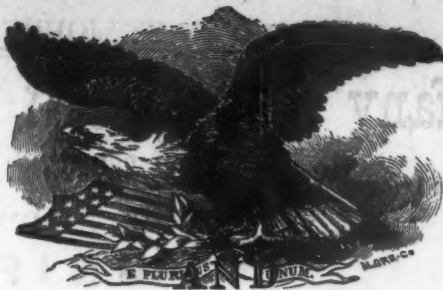


ARMY



NAVY

GAZETTE OF THE
REGULAR

JOURNAL.

AND VOLUNTEER
FORCES.

VOLUME XV.—NUMBER 20
WHOLE NUMBER 748.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1877.

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PRICES.			
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30	Pony Colt.....	6.75	0.35 1.00
32	Ladies' Colt.....	6.75	0.35 1.25
32	Pet Colt.....	8.00	0.35 1.25
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44	Cartridge (Army).....	12.00	1.00 3.00
44	Old Line (Army).....	7.50	1.00 3.00
38	Old Line Navy.....	5.00	1.00 3.00
41	Cartridge, House.....	6.50	0.40
38	Lightning, D. A.....	18.00	0.65 2.75
41	Thunderer.....	18.00	0.65 2.75
	Smith & Wesson, No. 1.....	6.75	0.35 2.00
36	Smith & Wesson, Army.....	11.00	0.65 2.50
45	Smith & Wesson, Army.....	15.00	1.00 2.75
32	Sharps Triumph.....	4.05 1.00

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THE ARMY.

ROTHERFORD B. HAYES, President and Com'r-in-Chief.

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H. J. Crooby, Chief Clerk, War Department.

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Colonel Randolph B. Marcy, Inspector-General.
Brig.-Gen. Wm. M. K. Dunn, Judge-Advocate-General.
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Brigadier-General Benj. Alvord, Paymaster-General.
Brigadier-General And. A. Humphreys, Chief of Engineers.
Brigadier-General Stephen V. Benét, Chief of Ordnance.

W. T. Sherman, General of the Army of the United States.
Washington, D. C. Brig.-Gen. E. D. Townsend, Adj.-General.

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Major James P. Martin, A. A. G.

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Capt. Wm. M. Wherry, A. C., Act. A. A. G.
Major-General J. M. Schofield, Superintendent, U. S. M. A.
Capt. Robert H. Hall, Adjutant, U. S. M. A.

ABSTRACT OF IMPORTANT ORDERS.

G. O. 114, H. Q. A., Dec. 17, 1877.

The following regulations relative to sick leaves of absence have been received from the War Department, and are promulgated for the information and guidance of all concerned:

I. Commanders of Geographical Departments and Divisions are authorized to grant leaves of absence, on account of sickness, subject to the limits fixed by the General Regulations of the Army for ordinary leaves. The application must be accompanied by a Surgeon's Certificate of Disability. That the officer may leave the Department, the certificate must recite that a change of location is necessary to save life or prevent permanent disability. Leaves will not be granted unless they originate at the post of duty of the officer.

No application for extension of sick leave will be granted from the Headquarters of the Army, or the War Department, unless such extension shall have been approved by the Department or Division Commander.

When not otherwise specified, the leave will commence the day an officer is relieved from duty at his post, after receiving the order granting him leave.

On the expiration of a leave of absence on account of sickness, if the officer be able to travel (without endangering his ultimate cure), he will forthwith proceed to his post, although his disability may not have been removed. Exceptions to this general rule must be made in each case by the War Department, on full and explicit medical certificates, forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army, through Department Headquarters, setting forth the reasons for delay and the length of time delay is considered necessary.

When an officer is prevented by sickness from joining his station, he will transmit the prescribed medical certificates, monthly, to the commanding officer of his post, and regiment or corps, and to the Adjutant-General—all through Department Headquarters; and when he cannot procure the certificate of a medical officer of the Army, he will substitute his own certificate, on honor, as to his condition, the certificate to embrace a full statement of his case. The certificates, when approved by the Department Commander and forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army, will be sufficient authority for his absence until he is able to travel to his post. If the officer's certificate is not satisfactory he will be so informed; if satisfactory the Adjutant-General will furnish him, for the advice of the Pay

Department and to secure his pay, an official letter of acceptance. Whenever an officer has been absent on account of sickness for one year, he may be examined by a Medical Board, and the case specially reported to the President.

When an officer is absent under an accepted certificate of disability, he will be entitled to the same pay as if an order had been issued granting him leave of absence on account of disability.

Form of Medical Certificate.

I, of the _____ Regiment of _____, having applied for a certificate on which to ground an application for leave of absence, I do hereby certify that I have carefully examined this officer and find that—[Here the nature of the disease, wound, or disability, is to be fully stated, and the period during which the officer has suffered under its effects], and that, in consequence thereof, he is, in my opinion, unfit for duty, and not able to travel without endangering his ultimate cure. I further declare my belief that he will not be able to resume his duties in a less period than—[Here state candidly and explicitly the opinion as to the period which will probably elapse before the officer will be able to resume his duties. When there is no reason to expect a recovery, or when the prospect of recovery is distant or uncertain, or when a change of climate is recommended, it must be so stated.] Dated at _____, this _____ day of _____.

[Signature of the Medical Officer].

In all reports of absence, or applications for leave of absence on account of sickness, the officer shall state how long he has been absent already on that account, and by whose permission.

II. Department Commanders are authorized, at any time it may seem to them proper, to order officers absent on sick certificate to return to their posts. Transportation, or mileage, under such orders will not be allowed, except as contemplated by Paras. 7 and 8, Sec. 3, G. O. 97, A. G. O., series of 1876.

An ordinary leave will not be changed to a sick leave save by the application of the officer through his post commander, to the end that the medical officer of the post, familiar with the habits of the officer, may certify as to its necessity. The post commander will forward the application to the Department Commander, to the end that the latter may forward, with his remarks, for the action of the General of the Army and the Secretary of War.

Any officer whose health permits him, for pleasure, to visit watering places, or places of amusement, will be considered fit for military duty, and as evading duty by absence from his command. He will likewise be considered as evading duty if the disease results from his own imprudence.

III. So much of G. O. 2, from the A. G. O., dated Jan. 14, 1871, as relates to sick leaves, is hereby rescinded.

G. O. 115, H. Q. A., Dec. 18, 1877.

Board on Magazine Gun.—In conformity with the act making appropriations for the support of the Army, a Board will assemble at the National Armory, Springfield, Mass., 3d of April, 1878, to consider and recommend a magazine gun, should one be found suitable for the military service. Detail for the Board: Lieut.-Col. J. G. Benton, Ord. Dept.; Major F. H. Parker, Ord. Dept.; Captain J. H. Rollins, Ord. Dept. 1st Lieut. J. E. Greer, Ord. Dept., will report to the president of the Board for duty as Recorder. All persons interested in magazine guns are invited to submit samples and appear in person, under such rules as may be adopted by the Board. The arms submitted must be calibre .45, and use the United States service cartridge. Any information required by those interested may be obtained of Colonel Benton, National Armory, Springfield, Mass. The Chief of Ordnance will supply such information and offer such facilities to the Board as may be necessary in the prosecution of its labors.

G. O. 116, H. Q. A., Dec. 19, 1877.

By direction of the Secretary of War, Subsistence stores may be sold, on credit, to officers and enlisted men who have not been regularly paid, or are in the field where it is impracticable for them to procure funds—the sales to be made and accounted for as prescribed in the regulations published in G. O. 58, of 1877, from this office. G. O. 109, of 1877, is modified accordingly.

G. O. 27, DEPT. ARIZONA, Dec. 1, 1877.

The meat ration for troops in garrison in this Department will hereafter be issued in the following proportions:

Pork, one day in ten.
Bacon, two days in ten.
Beef or Mutton, seven days in ten.

The proportion of pork will however be increased when the quantity on hand makes its consumption necessary to prevent loss.

The proportion of fresh meat may be increased when it can be furnished more economically than salt meats.

Issue of meats to troops in the field, may be made wholly in bacon when the quantity on hand will permit.

Pork will not be purchased as savings when there is danger of an undue accumulation of the article.

STAFF CORPS AND DEPARTMENTS

CHANGES OF STATIONS.

A. A. Surgeon J. E. Tallan, to San Diego, Cal., relieving A. Surgeon W. L. Newlands, who will report at these Hdqrs (S. O. 153, Dec. 3, M. D. P.)

1st Lieut. R. W. Shufeldt, A. Surgeon, from duty at Fort D. A. Russell to Omaha Bks, Neb. (S. O. 141, Dec. 10, D. P.)

Major H. P. Curtis, J. A., to duty in Bureau of Military Justice (S. O., Dec. 15, W. D.)

Major T. M. Vincent, A. A. G., from duty in Adj.-General's Office, Dept. Texas; Major S. Breck, A. A. G., to duty in Adjutant-General's Office, from Hdqrs Dept. of the East; Major J. H. Taylor, A. A. G., from Hdqrs Dept. of Texas to the Hdqrs Dept. of the East (S. O., Dec. 17, W. D.)

A. A. Surg. R. E. Lightburne, from duty at Camp Verde, A. T., to Camp Lowell, A. T. (S. O. 189, Dec. 4, D. A.)

DETACHED SERVICE.

Major G. E. Glenn, P. D., to Mobile, Ala. (S. O. 181, Dec. 13 D. G.)

Lieut.-Col. C. McKeever, A. A. G., to Chattanooga, Tenn., Jeffersonville, Ind., Cincinnati, O., and Columbus Bks, O. (S. O. 198, Dec. 13, D. S.)

1st Lieut. C. K. Winne, A. Surgeon, member G. C. M. Fort McPherson, W. T., Dec. 13 (S. O. 142, Dec. 10, D. P.)

A. Surgeon T. E. Wilcox, member G. C. M. Camp Supply, I. T., by par. 2, S. O. 191, from these Hdqrs (S. O. 226, Dec. 12, D. M.)

A. Surgeon W. E. Waters, to Fort Columbus, N. Y. H. (S. O., Dec. 15, W. D.)

A. Surgeon W. E. Waters, from duty as member G. C. M. Fort Columbus, N. Y. H., by S. O. 200, from this office, and A. Surg. J. P. Kimball is detailed in his stead (S. O., Dec. 14, W. D.)

Major G. B. Dandv, Q. M., and A. Surg. C. Styer, members G. C. M. Fort Porter, N. Y., Dec. 21 (S. O. 18, Dec. 13, D. E.)

A. Surg. H. E. Brown, M. D., member G. C. M. Fort Wadsworth, N. Y. H., Dec. 17 (S. O. 17, Dec. 12, D. E.)

Surg. A. Hartsuff, to Fort Gratiot, Mich. (S. O. 18, Dec. 13, D. E.)

A. A. Surg. A. C. Bergen, to Fort Snelling, Minn., and report to C. O. 20th Infantry, to accompany that regiment to San Antonio, Texas (S. O. 175, Dec. 15, D. D.)

Major M. P. Small, C. S., to Omaha, Neb.; Col. D. B. Sacket, In p. Gen., to Milwaukee, Wis., and St. Paul, Minn.; Lieut.-Col. A. Baird, Asst. Insp.-Gen., to Rock Island, Ill., St. Louis and Jefferson Bks, Mo. (S. O. 117, Dec. 17, M. D. M.)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Three months, on Surgeon's certificate, A. Surg. H. J. Phillips, to take effect Jan. 1, 1878 (S. O. Dec. 18, W. D.)

Capt. A. S. M. Morgan, Ord. Storekeeper, extended four months (S. O., Dec. 18, W. D.)

PAYMENT OF TROOPS.

Major H. B. Reese, P. D., will pay troops at Fort Snelling, Minn., Forts Pembina, Totten, and Sisseton, and, if necessary, troops at Fort A. Lincoln, to include muster of Dec 31, 1877 (S. O. 175, Dec. 15, D. D.)

RESIGNED.

The resignation of A. Surg. C. S. De Graw has been accepted by the President, to take effect Jan. 1, 1878 (S. O., Dec. 18, W. D.)

RELIEVED.

Major F. M. Coxe, P. D., as member G. C. M. Fort Brown, Tex., per par. 2, S. O. 195, from these Hdqrs (S. O. 206, Dec. 8, D. T.)

NON-COMMISSIONED STAFF.

Hosp. Steward T. Cassidy, from Fort Boise, I. T., to Camp McDermitt, Nev. (S. O. 154, Dec. 4, M. D. P.)

Hosp. Steward H. W. Mortimer, to duty at Camp Thomas, A. T. (S. O. 137, Nov. 30, D. A.)

Hosp. Steward G. D. Belt, to Fort Missoula; Hosp. Steward H. C. Bloom, to Helena Bks (S. O. 173, Dec. 13, D. D.)

THE LINE

CHANGES OF STATIONS OF TROOPS.

Reported to the Adjutant-General's Office during the week ending Saturday, December 15, 1877:

Co. E, 4th Cav., from Fort Wallace, Kas., to Fort Sill, Ind. T.

Co. B, 7th Cav., from Fort A. Lincoln, D. T., to Standing Rock Agency, D. T.

Co. F, 7th Cav., from Fort A. Lincoln, D. T., to Fort Totten, D. T.

Co. G, 15th Inf., from Lake Charles, La., to Mount Vernon Bks, Ala.

Co. C, 14th Inf., from Camp Douglas, Utah, to Fort Cameron, Utah.

1st CAVALRY, Colonel Cuvier Grover.—Headquarters, and E. F. H. L. Fort Walla Walla, W. T.; C. Camp Bidwell, Cal.; B. Fort Klamath, Oregon; I. Camp Halleck, Nev.; A. E. Camp Harney, Or.; M. Fort Colville, Wash. T.; D. Presidio, Cal.; G. Fort Boise, I. T.

The Court of Inquiry of which Col. Alfred Sully, 21st Infantry, is president, instituted by Special Field Orders 42, and S. O. 169, pars. 1 and 4, current series, from these Headquarters, at the request of Capt. David Perry, 1st Cavalry, to inquire into his conduct at Cottonwood, Idaho T., on the 5th of July, 1877, has submitted the following opinion:

The Court having considered the evidence presented to it, after due and mature deliberation, is of the following opinion, to wit: "The party of citizens attacked by Indians on the 5th of July, 1877, near Cottonwood House, Idaho T., were not and could not be recognized as white men by Capt. Perry's command, then at said Cottonwood House, until the attack actually commenced. After the character of the party was made evident by the attack of the Indians, there was a delay on the part of Capt. Perry of about ten minutes in ordering troops to their relief, but the Court does not consider this delay in determining upon his action excessive under the circumstances; and, besides, it is conclusively established by the testimony that no additional injury resulted from this delay, as all the casualties occurred at the first volley. The action taken by Capt. Perry in sending out three detachments of troops to their assistance afforded ample relief to the citizens attacked."

The proceedings, including the opinion of the Court founded upon the evidence adduced, are approved. There is not a word of testimony which reflects upon the personal courage of Captain Perry, and the opinion of the Court exonerates him from the charge of having made any improper delay in the exercise of his discretion as commanding officer at Cottonwood, nearly surrounded, as he evidently was, by hostile Indians, then undoubtedly outnumbering his troops (G. O. 23, Nov. 30, D. C.)

Detached Service.—Capt. E. V. Sumner, member, G.

C.-M. San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 7 (S. O. 153, Dec. 3, M. D. P.)

Recruiting.—1st Lieut. E. Hunter, Adj't., at Fort Walla Walla, Wash. T. (S. O. 151, Nov. 23, M. D. P.)

2ND CAVALRY, Colonel I. N. Palmer.—Headquarters and C. D., E. M. Fort Custer, M. T.; A. B. E. I. Fort Keogh; F. G. H. L. Fort Ellis, M. T.

3RD CAVALRY, Col. Thos. C. Devin.—Headquarters, and A. B. F. K. Fort Laramie, W. T.; I. Fort Fetterman, W. T.; C. Camp Robinson, Neb.; G. Camp Sheridan, Neb.; D. Fort Sanders, W. T.; E. L. New Red Cloud Agency, D. T.; H. M. New Spotted Tail Agency, D. T.

Detached Service.—2d Lieut. F. H. Hardie, now at New Spotted Tail Agency, to Fort D. A. Russell, W. T. (S. O. 172, Dec. 11, D. D.)

4TH CAVALRY, Col. R. S. McKenzie.—Headquarters, and A. C. D. K. L. M. Fort San Antonio, Tex.; G. H. Fort Reno, I. T.; E. Fort Sill, I. T.; I. Camp Supply, I. T.; B. F. Fort Elliott, Tex.

In compliance with orders from superior authority, the Department Commander has been obliged to relieve the Colonel of the 4th Cavalry and a portion of his regiment from duty in this Department, but he cannot part with them without expressing his high appreciation of the excellent services which they have rendered and the high state of efficiency and discipline they have maintained in this Department.

He desires especially to thank Col. Mackenzie for the very able manner in which he has managed all matters connected with the Indian tribes around Forts Sill and Reno (G. O. 11, Dec. 8, D. M.)

Leave Extended.—Capt. J. Lee, Fort Sill, Ind. T., one month (S. O. 115, Dec. 15, M. D. M.)

5TH CAVALRY, Col. W. Merritt.—Headquarters and A. B. F. H. I. Fort D. A. Russell, W. T.; C. E. M. Fort McKinney, W. T.; D. Sidney Bks, Neb.; L. Fort McPherson, Neb.; G. K. Camp Brown, W. T.

Detached Service.—1st Lieut. J. A. Augur, A. D. C., is announced as Act. J.-A. of Dept. (G. O. 8, Dec. 10, D. G.)

Lieut.-Col. E. A. Carr, 1st Lieuts. C. H. Rockwell, P. P. Barnard, 2d Lieut. H. W. Wheeler, members, G. C.-M. Fort McPherson, W. T., Dec. 13 (S. O. 142, Dec. 10, D. P.)

Leave of Absence.—One month, on Surg. certificate, 2d Lieut. S. A. Cherry, Fort D. A. Russell, W. T. (S. O. 141, Dec. 10, D. P.)

Rejoin.—2d Lieut. R. London will rejoin his station (S. O., Dec. 18, W. D.)

6TH CAVALRY, Col. James Oakes.—Headquarters and C. G. M. Camp Grant, A. T.; B. Camp Lowell, A. T.; K. Fort Whipple, A. T.; H. L. Camp Bowie, A. T.; E. D. Camp Apache, A. T.; A. Camp Verde, A. T.; I. Camp McDowell, A. T.; F. Camp Thomas, A. T.

* In camp near old Camp Wallen, A. T.

7TH CAVALRY, Colonel S. D. Sturgis.—Headquarters, and A. D. E. G. H. I. K. L. M. Ft. Lincoln, D. T.; C. F. Ft. Totten, D. T.; B. Standing Rock Agency, D. T.

* In the field.

8TH CAVALRY, Col. J. I. Gregg.—Headquarters and C. D. I. L. M. Fort Brown, Tex.; A. B. F. K. Fort Clark, Tex.; E. G. H. Ringgold Barracks, Tex.

* Scouting.

9TH CAVALRY, Col. Edward Hatch.—Headquarters, Santa Fe, N. M.; D. E. Fort Union, N. M.; I. Ft. Wingate, N. M.; K. Fort Garland, C. T.; F. H. M. Ft. Stanton, N. M.; A. B. C. G. Fort Bayard, N. M.; L. Fort Union, N. M.

* In the field.

Detached Service.—Capt. C. Parker will report to the Supt. Mounted Recruiting Service, St. Louis Bks, Mo., conducting detachment of recruits to Dept. of Missouri (S. O., Dec. 13, W. D.)

10TH CAVALRY, Colonel Benjamin H. Grierson.—Headquarters and D. L. Ft. Concho, Tex.; A. G. I. Fort Sill, I. T.; H. Fort Davis, Tex.; B. Fort Duncan, Tex.; E. San Felipe, Tex.; F. K. M. Ft. Clark, Tex.; C. Ft. McKavett, Tex.

Change of Station.—Co. G to Fort Sill, I. T., and Co. A from Fort Concho to Fort Sill, I. T. (S. O. 207, Dec. 10, D. T.)

Detached Service.—2d Lieut. C. G. Ayres, additional member, G. C.-M. Fort Davis, Tex., per par. 2, S. O. 198, from these Hdqs (S. O. 209, Dec. 12, D. T.)

Relieved.—Lieut.-Col. J. W. Davidson as member G. C.-M. Fort Clark, Tex., per par. 1, S. O. 199, from these Hdqs, and will proceed to his proper station (S. O. 205, Dec. 7, D. T.)

G. C.-M.—Before a G. C.-M. at Fort Clark, Tex., Oct. 30, 1877, of which Lieut.-Col. J. W. Davidson, 10th Cav., is president, was arraigned and tried: Capt. T. Little, 10th Cav. Charge—"Conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman." To which charge and its specifications the accused pleaded "Not Guilty." Finding—"Of the 1st Specification, 'Guilty.' Of the 2d Specification, 'Guilty, substituting \$47.00 for \$46.00.' Of the Charge, 'Guilty.' Sentence—"To be dismissed the service" (G. C.-M. O. 81, H. Q. A.)

Before a G. C.-M. at Fort Clark, Tex., on Tuesday, Oct. 30, 1877, of which Lieut.-Col. J. W. Davidson, 10th Cav., is president, was arraigned and tried: 2d Lieut. E. P. Turner, 10th Cav. Charge—"Violation of the 20th Article of War." (2 Specifications.) Plea, "Not Guilty." Finding, "Guilty of the charge." Sentence, "To be reprimanded by the reviewing authority; to be suspended from rank and command and confined to the limits of such post as the Dept. Comdr. may direct for four months, and to forfeit fifty dollars of his pay per month for the same period." In the case of 2d Lieut. E. P. Turner, 10th Cav., the proceedings, findings and sentence are approved, and the sentence will be duly executed. This is the second time the Dept. Comdr. has approved a sentence requiring him to reprimand Lieut. Turner, and as it is not the second or even third offence of a similar nature of which he has been accused, the Dept. Comdr. is of the opinion that the next Court-martial which Lieut. Turner is brought before will be apt to conclude that he is incorrigible, and that in his benefit such sentences are a mere waste of words. The Post of Fort Clark, Tex., is designated as the place where so much of the sentence as relates to confinement will be executed (G. O. 46, Dec. 1, D. T.)

1ST ARTILLERY, Col. Israel Vogdes.—Headquarters and B. E. F. K. Fort Adams, R. I.; A. I. Fort Warren, Mass.; C. M. Fort Trumbull, Conn.; H. Fort Preble, Me.; D. L. Fort Independence, Mass.; G. Fort Monroe, Va.

Detached Service.—Capt. L. L. Langdon and 1st Lieut. E. H. Totten, members, G. C.-M. Army Building, N. Y. City, Dec. 12 (S. O. 18, Dec. 13, D. E.)

Leave of Absence.—Until March 15, 1878, 2d Lieut. A. S. Bacon (S. O., Dec. 15, W. D.)

Resigned.—The resignation of 2d Lieut. A. S. Bacon has been accepted by the President, to take effect March 15, 1878 (S. O., Dec. 15, W. D.)

In Arrest.—1st Lieut. E. D. Wheeler will report, in arrest, to Capt. G. F. Barstow, 3d Art., J.-A. of G. C.-M. (S. O. 18, Dec. 13, D. E.)

2ND ARTILLERY, Colonel William F. Barry.—Headquarters and A. D. M. Fort McHenry, Md.; C. Fort Johnston, N. C.; E. F. G. L. San Antonio, Tex.; K. Fort Monroe, Va.; I. Washington, D. C.; B. Fort Foote, Md.

Change of Station.—1st Lieut. E. T. C. Richmond from duty at the West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va., to take effect Jan. 1, 1878, and will join his regiment (S. O., Dec. 18, W. D.)

Detached Service.—Capt. A. C. M. Pennington, J. G. Ramsay and J. E. Wilson, members, G. C.-M. Army Building, N. Y. City, Dec. 21 (S. O. 18, Dec. 13, D. E.)

1st Lieut. A. C. Taylor and 2d Lieut. W. A. Simpson to Fort Foote, Md. On completion of the duty they will return to their station, Fort McHenry, Md. (S. O. 22, Dec. 18, D. E.)

Leave of Absence.—One month, 2d Lieut. E. E. Gayle, Fort McHenry, Md. (S. O. 17, Dec. 12, D. E.)

3RD ARTILLERY, Col. George W. Getty.—Headquarters and C. D. L. M. Fort Hamilton, N. Y. H.; A. Ft. Monroe, Va.; E. I. Fort Wadsworth, N. Y. H.; B. Fort Niagara, N. Y.; F. Fort Ontario, N. Y.; H. Madison Bks, N. Y.; K. Flatteburg Bks, N. Y.; G. Fort Schuyler, N. Y.

Detached Service.—Capt. R. N. Scott to Fort Ontario, N. Y. (S. O., Dec. 14, W. D.)

Capt. E. K. Warner, 1st Lieuts. R. D. Potts, J. M. Callif, 2d Lieuts. B. H. Randolph, H. Dowd, H. H. Ludlow, members, and 1st Lieut. C. Humphreys, J.-A. of G. C.-M. Fort Wadsworth, N. Y. H., Dec. 17 (S. O. 17, Dec. 13, D. E.)

2d Lieut. C. Sellmer and C. B. Satterlee, members, G. C.-M. Fort Porter, N. Y., Dec. 21 (S. O. 18, Dec. 13, D. E.)

Major G. A. De Russy, member, and Capt. G. F. Barstow, J.-A. of G. C.-M. Army Building, N. Y. City, Dec. 21 (S. O. 18, Dec. 13, D. E.)

Leave of Absence.—Twenty days, 1st Lieut. E. C. Knower, Madison Bks, N. Y. (S. O. 20, Dec. 15, D. E.)

G. C.-M.—Before a G. C.-M. at N. Y. City, Nov. 1, 1877, of which Col. I. Vogdes, 1st Art., is president, was arraigned and tried: Capt. A. C. Wildrick, 3d Art. Charge—"Drunkenness on duty." To which charge the accused pleaded "Not Guilty." Finding, "Guilty." Sentence, "To be dismissed from the service." Commuted by the President "To suspension from command, on half pay, for four months." The offence of Capt. Wildrick (whose previous military career appears by the records of this Dept. to have been remarkably creditable) was committed before the promulgation of G. O. 104, current series (G. C.-M. O. 70, Dec. 5, H. Q. A.)

4TH ARTILLERY, Col. W. H. French.—Headquarters, B. C. E. L. Presidio, Cal.; H. K. Alcatraz Isl., Cal.; M. Fort Stevens, Or.; D. G. Fort Canby, Wash. T.; I. Fort Monroe, Va.; A. Fort Townsend, W. T.; F. Ft. San Jose, Cal.

Change of Station.—1st Lieut. G. H. Paddock, now at Fort Stevens, Ore., is attached with Co. M, Fort Stevens (S. O. 176, Nov. 30, D. C.)

So much of par. 2, S. O. 241, Nov. 27, from this office, as directs Additional 2d Lieut. J. V. White to join his company, is revoked. He will report to the Comdg. Gen. Dept. of the East for duty with a battery of the 1st Art., to which regiment he has been nominated as 2d Lieutenant (S. O., Dec. 13, W. D.)

Col. W. H. French will assume command at Presidio, San Francisco, Cal., relieving Major A. P. Howe, who will assume command of Alcatraz Island, Cal. (S. O. 155, Dec. 6, M. D. P.)

Detached Service.—During the illness of Capt. B. B. Keeler, 18th Inf., A. D. C., Recruiting Officer at San Francisco, Cal., Capt. M. P. Miller is temporarily detailed as Recruiting Officer in his stead (S. O. 151, Nov. 28, M. D. P.)

Capt. H. C. Cushing, 1st Lieut. J. E. Bloom, members, and 2d Lieut. W. M. Medcalfe, J.-A. of G. C.-M. San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 7 (S. O. 153, Dec. 3, M. D. P.)

5TH ARTILLERY, Col. Henry J. Hunt.—Headquarters and E. F. I. Charleston, S. C.; A. K. St. Augustine, Fla.; B. L. M. Fort Barrancas, Fla.; G. H. Fort Brooke, Fla.; C. Fort Monroe, Va.; D. Savannah, Ga.

1ST INFANTRY, Colonel Thomas G. Pitcher.—Headquarters and A. C. E. I. Ft. Randall, D. T.; B. G. Lower Brule Agency; D. F. H. K. Fort Sully, D. T.

Congratulatory.—The following letter is published by permission:

To the Commanding Officer Batt. 1st Inf., Fort A. Lincoln, D. T.: Sir: I have the honor to communicate the following by direction of General N. A. Miles, Colonel 5th Infantry, commanding: The Battalion Companies G, K, B and H, 1st Infantry, are hereby relieved from duty in this district, and will proceed without delay to their proper station, as indicated in orders from Headquarters Department of Dakota.

The Commanding Officer avails himself of this opportunity to express (through you) to the officers and men of your Battalion his high appreciation of their valuable services during the summer campaign, just consummated by the capture and overthrow of the last band of hostile Indians arrayed against the Government within the limits of the Dept. of Dakota. It is to your untiring zeal and forbearance on the long and most fatiguing marches, and willing and intelligent performance of arduous and difficult duties which has so materially aided in bringing about the present state of perfect quiet and safety within the limits of his district, which, fourteen months ago, was over run with hostile Indians. Very respectfully, etc., FRANK D. BALDWIN, 1st Lieut. 5th Inf., A. D. C., Act. Asst. Adj't.-Gen., District of the Yellowstone.

The Battalion, after an absence of seven months in the field, has just returned to Fort Sully, D. T.

2ND INFANTRY, Colonel Frank Wheaton.—Headquarters and A. B. D. F. G. Fort Lapwai, I. T.; C. K. Mt. Idaho, I. T.; H. I. Spokane Falls, I. T.; E. Fort Colville, W. T.

Resigned.—The resignation of 2d Lieut. F. O. Briggs has been accepted by the President to take effect Dec. 16, 1877 (S. O., Dec. 18, W. D.)

3RD INFANTRY, Colonel De L. Floyd-Jones.—Headquarters and A. C. E. F. K. Helena, M. T.; B. D. H. I. Missoula City, M. T.; G. Camp Baker, M. T.

Detached Service.—Major H. L. Chipman, Capt. J. H. Page, E. Moale, J. A. Snyder, 1st Lieuts. J. Hale, Adj't., F. B. Jones, R. Q. M., members, G. C.-M. Fort Shaw, M. T., Jan. 9 (S. O. 174, Dec. 15, D. D.)

4TH INFANTRY, Colonel Franklin F. Flint.—Headquarters and G. K. Fort Bridger, W. T.; A. Fort Fred. Steele, W. T.; C. Fort Fetterman, W. T.; D. Omaha Bks, Neb.; B. E. I. Cantonment Reno, W. T.; H. Camp Stambaugh; F. Fort Sanders, W. T.

Detached Service.—1st Lieut. H. Seton, member, G. C.-M. Omaha Bks, Neb., Dec. 11 (S. O. 142, Dec. 10, D. P.)

5TH INFANTRY, Colonel Nelson A. Miles.—Headquarters and A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. K. Ft. Keogh, M. T.

Leave Extended.—1st Lieut. E. Rice, extended to cover time necessary for return to his regiment (S. O., Dec. 18, W. D.)

6TH INFANTRY, Colonel William B. Hazen.—Headquarters and E. F. G. I. Ft. Buford, D. T.; A. Fort Rice, D. T.; B. Ft. Abraham Lincoln, D. T.; H. K. Fort Stevenson, D. T.; C. Glendive, M. T.; D. Fort Peck, M. T.

7TH INFANTRY, Col. John Gibbon.—Headquarters, and A. B. C. H. I. K. Fort Shaw, M. T.; G. Fort Ellis, M. T.; D. E. Camp Baker, M. T.; F. Fort Benton, M. T.

Detached Service.—Col. J. Gibbon, Capt. T. S. Kirtland and C. C. Rawn, members, and Capt. J. M. J. Sanno, J.-A. of G. C.-M. Fort Shaw, M. T., Jan. 9 (S. O. 174, Dec. 15, D. D.)

2d Lieut. A. B. Johnson to Fort Snelling (S. O. 175, Dec. 15, D. D.)

Leave Extended.—1st Lieut. C. A. Woodruff, on Surg. certificate, six months (S. O., Dec. 15, W. D.)

8TH INFANTRY, Col. August V. Kautz.—Headquarters, Prescott, A. T.; F. Fort Whipple, A. T.; A. B. Camp Verde, A. T.; C. Camp McDowell, A. T.; K. Camp Lowell, A. T.; E. G. Camp Apache, A. T.; H. San Diego, Cal.; I. Cp. Grant, A. T.; D. Camp Thomas, A. T.

Detached Service.—Lieut.-Col. J. D. Wilkins to San Francisco, Cal. (S. O. 138, Dec. 1, D. A.)

Recruiting.—1st Lieut. T. Wilhelm, Adj't., at Prescott, A. T.; 2d Lieut. J. A. Hutton, Jr., at San Diego, Cal.; 2d Lieut. H. Johnson at Camp Lowell, A. T. (S. O. 151, Nov. 28, M. D. P.)

9TH INFANTRY, Col. John H. King.—Headquarters and B. G. H. I. Omaha Barrack, Neb.; E. Cantonment Reno, W. T.; A. F. Fort McPherson, Neb.; C. Camp at Cheyenne Depot, W. T.; D. Sidney Bks, Neb.; K. Fort Sanders, W. T.

Detached Service.—Major E. F. Townsend, Capt. A. S. Burt, F. Mears, T. B. Burrows, 1st Lieut. M. C. Foot, 2d Lieut. J. McB. Stembel, members, and 2d Lieut. E. B. Robertson, J.-A. of G. C.-M. Omaha Bks, Neb., Dec. 11 (S. O. 142, Dec. 10, D. P.)

2d Lieut. T. S. McCaleb, member, and 2d Lieut. C. M. Rockefeller, J.-A. of G. C.-M. Fort McPherson, W. T., Dec. 13 (S. O. 142, Dec. 10, D. P.)

10TH INFANTRY, Colonel Henry B. Clitz.—Headquarters and A. B. C. F. I. Fort McKavett, Texas; D. Fort McIntosh, Tex.; E. San Antonio, Tex.; G. H. K. Fort Clark, Tex.

* In the field.

Detached Service.—1st Lieut. J. F. Stretch, with 15 men of Co. E, to Fort Griffin, Tex. (S. O. 207, Dec. 10, D. T.)

11TH INFANTRY, Colonel William H. Wood.—Headquarters and A. D. E. G. I. K. Cheyenne Agency, D. T.; H. Fort Keogh, M. T.; B. C. F. Post No. 2, M. T.

12TH INFANTRY, Colonel Orlando B. Willcox.—Headquarters and C. D. F. Angel Island, Cal.; A. Camp Mojave, A. T.; E. Camp Gaston, Cal.; G. I. Camp McDermitt, Nev.; H. Cp. Halleck, Nev.; B. K. Benicia Bks, Cal.

Change of Station.—Major T. S. Dunn to Fort Yuma, Cal. (S. O. 154, Dec. 4, M. D. P.)

Detached Service.—Capt. T. Byrne, J. L. Viven, 1st Lieut. H. L. Haskell, 2d Lieut. G. Howard, members, G. C.-M. San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 7 (S. O. 153, Dec. 3, M. D. P.)

To Join.—1st Lieut. J. J. Clague will join his station (S. O., Dec. 14, W. D.)

Recruiting.—1st Lieut. J. S. King at Fort Yuma, Cal. (S. O. 151, Nov. 28, M. D. P.)

13TH INFANTRY, Colonel P. R. de Trobriand.—Headquarters and A. D. H. I. Jackson Bks, La.; B. F. K. Baton Rouge Bks, La.; C. E. Little Rock Bks, Ark.; G. Mount Vernon, Ala.

Leave of Absence.—One month, Capt. H. C. Pratt, Little Rock Bks, Ark. (S. O. 181, Dec. 13, D. G.)

14TH INFANTRY, Col. John E. Smith.—Headquarters and D. E. F. G. I. Camp Douglas, Utah; A. Fort Hall, Idaho; B. C. H. Fort Cameron, U. T.; K. Fort Hartsuff.

Change of Station.—1st Lieut. T. B. Briggs to Fort Hall, I. T. (S. O. 157, Dec. 11, M. D. P.)

15TH INFANTRY, Col. Geo. A. Woodward.—Headquarters and D. K. Ft. Wingate, N. M.; B. Ft. Garland, C. T.; A. G. Fort Craig, N. M.; C. F. Ft. Union, N. M.; E. Fort Bayard, N. M.; H. Fort Stanton, N. M.; I. Fort Marcy, N. M.

16TH INFANTRY, Colonel G. Pennypacker.—Headquarters and A. C. H. Fort Riley, Kas.; E. I. Fort Reno, I. T.; B. D. Fort Sill, I. T.; G. Fort Hays, Kas.; K. Fort Gibson, I. T.; F. Fort Wallace, Kas.

17TH INFANTRY, Colonel Thomas L. Crittenden.—Headquarters and A. B. C. D. E. F. I. K. Standing Rock Agency, D. T.; G. Fort A. Lincoln, D. T.; H. Fort Rice, D. T.

Indian Supplies.—1st Lieut. C. S. Roberts is to witness at Standing Rock Agency "each delivery of beef and other supplies" for the Indians, and annuity goods purchased for that agency, vice 2d Lieut. G. H. Itouch, relieved (S. O. 172, Dec. 11, D. D.)

18TH INFANTRY, Colonel Thomas H. Ruger.—Headquarters and B. C. D. E. F. G. K. McPherson Bks, Atlanta, Ga.; H. I. Newport Bks, Ky.; A. Chattanooga, Tenn.

Detached Service.—2d Lieut. W. B. Wheeler, A. D. C., to Augusta, Ga. (S. O. 196, Dec. 10, D. S.)

Capt. J. Stewart, T. J. Lloyd, 1st Lieut. M. Leahy, G. N. Bomford, F. H. Barnhart, 2d Lieut. C. H. Cabanis, Jr., W. T. Wood, members, and 1st Lieut. C. H. Potter, Adj. J. A. of G. C. M. McPherson Bks., Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 13 (S. O. 197, Dec. 11, D. S.).

Recruiting.—Capt. B. B. Keeler, A. D. C., at San Francisco, Cal. (S. O. 151, Nov. 28, M. D. P.).

Dead.—Private Joseph Guilfoyle, of Co. B, died at McPherson Barracks, Atlanta, Ga., on the 13th of Dec., of pneumonia, after nearly thirty years of service in the Army. His remains were taken to the National Cemetery, Marietta, Ga., for interment, on the 14th. In addition to the usual escort, the officers and soldiers of the regiment, without arms, headed by the splendid band of this command, followed the remains to the depot in Atlanta. This act of respect to an old veteran in the ranks was highly commended by a large concourse of spectators, and favorably mentioned by the Southern press.

Thanks.—The officers of Gen. Ruger's headquarters, and at McPherson Barracks, have expressed a hearty appreciation of the liberal and patriotic action of Messrs. Drexel and Co., who so promptly came to the relief of the Army, and advanced funds with which to meet the pressing demands of its officers.

19TH INFANTRY, Colonel Charles H. Smith.—Headquarters and A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. K. San Antonio, Tex.

21ST INFANTRY, Colonel Alfred Sully.—Headquarters and A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. K. San Antonio, Tex.

Recruiting.—1st Lieut. G. W. Evans, Adj. T., Fort Vancouver, W. T. (S. O. 151, Nov. 28, M. D. P.).

22ND INFANTRY, Colonel David S. Stanley.—Headquarters and A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. K. San Antonio, Tex.

Detached Service.—1st Lieut. G. S. L. Ward, A. D. C., to Camden, N. J. (S. O. 17, Dec. 12, D. E.).

Capt. J. Hartley, member, and 1st Lieut. B. C. Lockwood, J. A. of G. C. M. Fort Porter, N. Y., Dec. 21 (S. O. 18, Dec. 13, D. E.).

Lieut.-Col. E. S. Otis, Capt. J. B. Irvine, DeW. C. Poole, members, G. C. M. Army Building, N. Y. City, Dec. 21 (S. O. 18, Dec. 13, D. E.).

Leave of Absence.—Fourteen days, 2d Lieut. J. J. Crittenden, Fort Gratiot, Mich. (S. O. 17, Dec. 12, D. E.).

G. C. M.—Before a G. C. M. at Detroit, Mich., Nov. 3, 1877, of which Major G. A. De Russy, 3d Art., is president, was arraigned and tried: Capt. J. Bush. Charge I.—"Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline." Charge II.—"Drunkenness on duty." Plea, "Guilty." Finding, "Guilty." Sentence, "To be dismissed the service of the United States." Commuted by the President "To a suspension from command, upon half pay, for eight months." The Secretary of War directs that attention be called to the fact that the offence in this case was committed before the promulgation of G. O. 104, current series (G. C. M. O. 78, Dec. 4, H. Q. A.).

23RD INFANTRY, Colonel Jeff. C. Davis.—Headquarters and A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. K. Fort Leavenworth, Kas.; I, Fort Dodge, Kas.

24TH INFANTRY, Colonel Joseph H. Potter.—Headquarters and A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. K. Fort Brown, Tex.; C, G. I, K, Ringgold Barracks, Tex.; B, F, Fort Duncan, Tex.

Detached Service.—Capt. H. C. Corbin, on recruiting service at Washington, D. C. (S. O., Dec. 12, W. D.).

Leave Extended.—Capt. F. M. Crandal, three months (S. O., Dec. 13, W. D.).

G. C. M.—Before a G. C. M. at Fort Clark, Tex., on Tuesday, Oct. 30, 1877, of which Lieut.-Col. J. W. Davidson, 10th Cav., is president, was arraigned and tried: 1st Lieut. M. W. Saxton. Charge I.—Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline. Charge II.—Violation of the 38th Article of War. Charge III.—Conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman. Additional Charge I.—Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline. Additional Charge II.—Conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman. Additional Charge III.—Neglect of duty, to the prejudice of good order and military discipline. Plea, Not Guilty, except as to additional charges. Finding—The court, having maturely considered the evidence adduced, finds the accused: Of the first charge and its specifications, Not Guilty; of the second charge and its specification, Not Guilty; of the specification, third charge, Guilty, except of the words "of Co. B, 24th Infantry;" of the third charge, Not Guilty, but guilty of conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline; of the third additional charge and its specification, Guilty. Sentence, "To be suspended from rank and command for the period of two months; to be confined to the limits of the post where his company may be serving, and to forfeit to the United States fifty dollars per month of his pay for the same period" (G. C. M. O. 47, Dec. 1, D. T.).

25TH INFANTRY, Colonel George L. Andrews.—Headquarters and A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. K. Fort Stockton, Tex.; B, E, Ft. Clark, Tex.; G, Ft. Concho, Tex.; E, Fort Duncan, Tex.

Casualties among the Commissioned Officers of the U. S. Army reported to the Adjutant-General's Office during the week ending Saturday, December 15, 1877.

2d Lieut. J. W. Rosenquest, 4th Cav.—Dropped as a deserter Dec. 7, 1877.

Officers Registered.—At Hdqrs Mil. Div. Atlantic, Dec. 19: Major H. P. Curtis, J. A., U. S. A.; 1st Lieut. J. S. Bishop, 13th Inf.; 1st Lieut. J. L. Sherman, 1st Art.; 1st Lieut. J. G. Leefe, 19th Inf.; 1st Lieut. W. Hoffman, 11th Inf.; Lieut.-Col. E. Upton, 4th Art.; Asst. Surg. C. Smart, U. S. A.; Capt. J. Simpson, A. Q. M., U. S. A.; Asst. Surg. J. P. Kimball, U. S. A.; 2d Lieut. A. Bacon, 1st Art.; 1st Lieut. H. L. Hains, 1st Art.; 2d Lieut. J. R. McAluliffe, 5th Art.; Asst. Surg. G. P. Jaquette, U. S. A.

Enlisted Men Sentenced to Confinement—when not otherwise specified, at Fort Leavenworth Military Prison.

H. C. McMaster, G, 2nd Inf., absent without leave, 1 month, Post Guard-house.

R. Deibel, C, 3d Art., violn. 33th and 39th Art. of War, 6 months, Post Guard-house.

J. O'Connell, E, 23d Inf., theft, 1 year.

F. Holtz, E, 13th Inf., neglect of duty and absent without leave, 3 months, Post Guard-house.

H. J. Porter, B, 3d Art., absent without leave, 2 months, Post Guard-house.

C. Beane, B, 3d Art., abusive language, 2 months, Post Guard-house.

J. Megery, B, 3d Art., violn. 21st and 63d Art. of War, 6 months, Post Guard-house.

P. Conroy, H, 18th Inf., desertion, 3 months, Post Guard-house.

P. Conroy, M, 2d Art., drunk, 4 months, Post Guard-house.

R. H. Dillon, I, 2d Art., desertion, 2 years.

J. H. Hooper, C, 8th Cav., theft and drunk, 1 month, Post Guard-house.

W. Gibson, D, 8th Cav., assault with intent to wound or kill and desertion, 10 years.

J. Scandrick, E, 24th Inf., absent without leave, 6 months, Post Guard-house.

J. Siddell, B, 10th Inf., desertion, 2 years.

D. E. Bennett, G, 10th Cav., theft, 6 months, Post Guard-house.

G. Lempske, E, 8th Cav., drunk, 2 months, Post Guard-house.

E. W. White, E, Disposable Recruits, assault, 6 months, Columbus Bks.

F. J. Hart, B, 4th Inf., desertion, 3 years.

A. Hardie, H, 8th Inf., desertion, 1 year, Camp McDowell, A. T.

R. Parsons, B, 5th Inf., drunk, 1 year, Post Guard-house.

B. Tyeryar, F, 8th Inf., drunk, 3 months, Post Guard-house.

D. Sullivan, G, 6th Cav., des'n, 3 years, Alcatraz Island, Cal.

J. Dwyer, F, 8th Inf., desertion, 2 years, Alcatraz Island, Cal.

C. L. Rollins, F, 8th Inf., des'n, 2 years, Alcatraz Island, Cal.

M. M. Samet, 8th Inf., desertion and theft, 5 years, Alcatraz Island, Cal.

J. Ryan, F, 8th Inf., desertion, 2 years, Alcatraz Island, Cal.

J. Roberts, E, 4th Inf., desertion and theft, 2 years.

J. Mahoney, I, 1st Art., drunk, 2 months, Post Guard-house.

A. Jackson, E, 24th Inf., theft, 4 months, Post Guard-house.

D. Small, G, 10th Inf., drunk and disorderly, 6 months, Post Guard-house.

F. Deligman, A, 19th Inf., drunk and mutinous conduct, 6 months, Post Guard-house.

H. J. Mack, violn. 62d Art. War, 6 months.

E. Wagner, violn. 62d Art. War, 6 months.

I. W. Oliphant, E, 15th Inf., violn. 21st, 32d, 63d Art. War, 4 months, Post Guard-house.

A. D. Sterling, E, 15th Inf., violn. 21st and 32d Art. War, 4 months, Post Guard-house.

J. Bloeler, E, 15th Inf., violn. 21st and 32d Art. War, 5 months, Post Guard-house.

S. E. Spencer, G, 9th Cav., mutinous, 6 months, Post Guard-house.

W. Gibbs, G, 9th Cav., desertion, 2 years.

J. Hartley, F, 10th Inf., perjury, 1 year.

J. Hanlon, H, 8th Cav., drunk, 1 year, Ringgold Bks, Tex.

D. F. Eagan, C, 1st Art., drunk, 2 months, Post Guard-house.

I. Grant, A, 3d Cav., desertion, 3 years.

S. H. McNally, E, 4th Cav., desertion, 3 years.

W. O'Brien, B, 23d Inf., desertion, 3 years.

C. Speer, D, 12th Inf., desertion, 3 years.

J. A. Welch, A, 18th Inf., desertion, 4 years.

E. Weiss, K, 2d Cav., desertion, 3 years.

G. D. Worley, D, 18th Inf., desertion, 3 years.

F. Muller, F, 14th Inf., desertion, 6 months, Post Guard-house.

F. Quinn, F, 12th Inf., violn. 40th Art. War, 3 months, Post Guard-house.

H. Dyerksen, B, 12th Inf., assault, 6 months, Post Gd-house.

Released from Confinement.

L. Jones, A, 9th Cav., restored to duty.

T. Newsome, I, 16th Inf., Dec. 3, restored to duty.

H. Ross, formerly F, 6th Cav., Nov. 15.

H. W. Littlewood, formerly D, 1st Cav., Nov. 13.

G. Mathews, formerly G, 1st Cav., Nov. 19.

J. Clark, formerly C, 15th Inf., Nov. 10.

W. Beator, formerly C, 31st Inf., Nov. 13.

J. H. Foster, formerly B, 10th Inf., restored to duty.

P. Murphy, formerly H, 12th Inf., 13 months remitted.

The following named military prisoners, entitled to an abatement of five days per month for continuous good conduct, were discharged from the Prison on the dates set opposite their names: M. McDonald, Nov. 18, 1877; W. H. Allen, J. Bowman, W. H. Hyslop, F. Monroe, A. G. Tupper, Nov. 20; W. H. Taylor, Nov. 22; T. O'Brien, Nov. 25; D. Kline, Nov. 29; J. Johnson, J. McGuinnis, Dec. 3; J. Kellom, C. Rosenfeldt, Dec. 5; G. Wilder, Dec. 7; J. Bransfield, J. Harvey, Dec. 8; J. J. Garvey, Dec. 9; J. Collins, T. Croughan, J. Harriott, F. Myers, Dec. 10; J. Howard, Dec. 11; W. Craig, W. Lyden, R. Woods, Dec. 13; J. Doherty, S. J. Steele, Dec. 13; C. Thealman, Dec. 14; J. Shields, Dec. 15.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

DESIGNS OF SITTING BULL.

GENERAL TERRY and A. H. Lawrence, commissioners to treat with Sitting Bull, have made their report to the Secretary of the Interior. The proceedings of the conference which resulted in the rejection by the Indians of the propositions made by the commission are already familiar to the readers of the JOURNAL, having been published at the time. The report closes as follows:

In accordance with that clause of the foregoing instructions which directs the commission "to ascertain what danger there may be of hostile invasions on the part of Sitting Bull and the bands under his command upon the territory of the United States," the commission has the honor to report that they are convinced that Sitting Bull and the Indians with him will not seek to return to this country at present. It is believed that they are restrained from returning, partly by their recollection of the constant and harassing pursuit to which they were subjected during the last winter and spring by the troops under General Miles, a pursuit which ended only with their flight to foreign soil; partly by the assurances given them by the Canadian authorities that, should they return with hostile

intent, they will become "the enemies of both governments," and in part by their belief that for some reason which they cannot fathom, the Government of the United States very earnestly desires that they shall return.

This belief has been confirmed and strengthened by the visit of the commission and the favorable offers made to them. In their intense hostility to our Government they are determined to contravene its wishes to the best of their ability. The most probable ultimate result is that these Indians, like those Sioux who, after the Minnesota massacre of 1862, sought and found an asylum in the British possessions, will in time become so accustomed and attached to their new country that they will regard it as their permanent home. At the same time it cannot be concealed that the presence of this large body of Indians, bitterly hostile to us, in proximity to the frontier, is a standing menace to the peace of our Indian Territories.

The tribes which occupy the region between the Upper Missouri and the forty-ninth parallel, have been for some time past restless, disturbed, and given to complaint. Among these tribes are the Yanktons, themselves Sioux, and the Assiniboines, kindred of the Sioux.

Though these tribes have been nominally at peace, there is no doubt that, during the last year and a half, many individuals from them have helped to swell those bands which have been engaged in open war. It is impossible to prevent constant communication between these tribes and the band of Sitting Bull; and so long as the latter shall remain as near to our frontier as they now are, they cannot fail to exercise a most injurious influence over the former, giving evil counsel and advice, stimulating disaffection and encouraging acts of hostility. Besides, this body of refugees is not a distinct section of the Sioux nation; it is made up by contributions from nearly every agency and every tribe; it is largely composed of young men whose families still remain at the various Sioux agencies.

Were it a distinct band that had separated itself from, and broken off its associations with, the rest of its people, it would soon be forgotten, and would cease to exert any influence over those from whom it had separated, but the intimate relationship, the ties of blood existing between the refugees and the agency Indians forbid us to hope for such a result. To the lawless and ill disposed, to those who commit offences against the property and persons of the whites, the refugee camp will be a secure asylum, not only an asylum on foreign soil, but an asylum amid their own kindred.

We have already an illustration of this danger in the fact that more than one hundred of the Nez Percés, defeated at Bear Paw Mountain, are now in Sitting Bull's camp.

It is not the province of the commission to propose any measures in respect to this matter to be taken by the Government, but they may be permitted to suggest that the evils which they apprehend may be in some degree avoided by a compliance on the part of the authorities of the Dominion of Canada with that rule of international law which requires that armed military or insurgent bodies which are driven by force across the frontier of a neutral State shall be "interned;" shall be removed so far into the interior of the neutral State that they can no longer threaten in any manner the peace and safety of the State from which they have come.

In conclusion, the members of the commission desire to express their grateful sense of the courtesy with which they were received by Lieutenant-Colonel McLeod, Major Walsh, and the officers of police under their command.

ALFRED H. TERRY, } Commissioners.
A. G. LAWRENCE, }

H. C. CORBIN, Secretary.

THE TROUBLES IN TEXAS.

On Saturday, Dec. 15th, Governor Hubbard, of Texas, sent the following despatch to President Hayes:

I am officially informed that citizens of Mexico, in connection with citizens of El Paso County, Texas, of Mexican birth, were fighting all day yesterday in Texas with a detachment of State troops who were aiding our civil authorities. The Mexican force being too strong to be repelled by Texas troops, and it being impossible to raise a civil posse from the citizens, who are nearly all of Mexican blood and sympathy, and having no reinforcements within several hundred miles, I ask the aid of such United States troops as may be nearest to the scene of action to repel this invasion of our territory.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,
R. B. HUBBARD, Governor of Texas.

On Tuesday, Dec. 18th, and Wednesday, the 19th, the following despatches were received in Washington:

CHICAGO, ILL., Dec. 17, 1877.

The following telegram from General Pope is transmitted for the information of the General of the Army.
P. H. SHERIDAN, Lieutenant-General.

Captain Blair telegraphs from El Paso on the 16th, that the mob have been to El Paso, Mexico, to get a small gun there, but Judge Padillo refused to let them have it. Major Offen has just come from the other side. All his old friends turned the cold shoulder on him to-day, and one of them told him he had better come into town, which he will do to-morrow. Men belonging to the mob came up to Yuleta yesterday, and took all the ammunition they could find. If a good blow is to be struck, the sooner the better. Colonel Hatch reports that Captain Blair has been telegraphed the movement of the troops now taking place, and he has been directed to take charge of two field pieces and ammunition at El Paso, Texas, and put them in the Custom House under guard of his detachment. Colonel Hatch thinks the troops will arrive in time to prevent any serious trouble.

JOHN FORZ, Commanding, Brigadier-General.

General Pope also telegraphs under date of Dec. 18:

Ten companies of the Ninth Cavalry and one company of infantry are en route to El Paso. Advance companies are expected to arrive there to-day or to-morrow. The whole force probably numbers little over three hundred men—enough for all purposes.

CHICAGO, Dec. 18, 1877.

The following despatch from General Pope is

transmitted for the information of the General of the Army. P. H. SHERIDAN, Lieutenant-General.

Captain Blair telegraphs from El Paso, on the 17th, that Mrs. Marsh went down to San Elizario yesterday, and got out her son, who was with the Rangers. He reports one Ranger, named Ellis, killed. Nothing new has come to my notice. The troops are on the march as rapidly as possible to El Paso, but being away from the line of telegraph, they cannot be heard from until they reach the immediate vicinity of that place. Reports of the arrival of advance companies are hourly expected.

CHICAGO, ILL., Dec. 19.—Despatches received at Lieut.-Gen. Sheridan's headquarters, late last night, from Capt. Blair, who is in command at Fort Bliss, report that the Texas Rangers at San Elizario surrendered yesterday morning. Judge Howard, agent for the salt mines, and Atkinson and McBride, Rangers, were shot, and the rest of the Rangers disarmed and liberated. The Rangers are now at Fort Bliss, opposite El Paso, Mexico, and the mob has dispersed. No help was given to the mob from the Mexican side of the river. The mob was composed entirely of native-born citizens of Texas.

(From the New York Evening Post.)

A MILITARY MASS.

On a bright Sunday morning the writer and his travelling companion had taken an omnibus at St. Sulpice, intending to get out at the Pont de Jena and then walk over to the other side of the Seine. On arriving at the Pont de l'Alma we noticed so much stir among the idlers on the quay that it seemed worth while to stop and learn the cause. We soon found that something of interest was drawing people in the direction of the Hotel des Invalides, where the First Napoleon sleeps, guarded by the few surviving veterans of his armies, in one of the grandest resting-places provided for the ashes of mortal man. Supposing that the persons whom we saw strolling toward the gates were making a holiday visit to this celebrated tomb, we decided to take the opportunity, as we were so near, to see it also. To our disappointment, however, the tomb was not open to visitors at this time, and we were obliged to content ourselves with seeing what we could as we walked about the adjoining buildings and grounds.

The Hotel des Invalides is an immense building, or group of buildings, erected by the "Grand Monarque," Louis XIV., as an asylum for wounded soldiers. It is said to contain more than twenty courts, and has an imposing front on the esplanade of more than six hundred feet. The famous Tomb of Napoleon is in the crypt of the church, beneath the dome. There, too, are the tombs of two of the Emperor's marshals, Bertrand and Duroc.

The great court, called the Court of Honor, into which we now passed, is a bare, open, quadrangular plaza, surrounded by an arcade, on the inner walls of which are rude frescoes representing scenes from the early and in some respects legendary history of France. The quadrangle was at the time comparatively deserted, but knots of old warriors in their simple uniforms of blue were gathered at different points. Some were sitting in the sunshine on the benches between the pillars of the arcade, perhaps recounting to one another for the thousandth time the story of Austerlitz and the Pyramids, of Moscow and Waterloo, and other chapters in the history of their eventful lives. Gray, stern, battle-scarred old fellows they were. Some, too, were drawn in little carriages, while others still were wheeling themselves about in old-fashioned velocipedes.

In a little while a drum corps of boys, headed by an ancient-looking chief musician, formed in front of the chapel doors at the middle of the side opposite the entrance gates of the court. Under the arches on the right a company of Invalides was drawn up in two ranks, all wearing white scarfs across the body and carrying non-commissioned officers' swords and short lances with the tri-color flying from each spear head. At a signal given the drums were beaten. After a few prolonged rolls there was silence for a moment, and then, at the word of command from a fine-looking old officer, these veterans of a hundred battles marched or hobbled into church to the sound of the drums beating their loudest through the lofty aisles. Half way up the nave they halted, opened ranks and faced inward, and quickly aligning themselves on either side stood steadily at "carry arms." The officers then, two by two, all in gala dress and preceded by the gorgeously attired Suisse, with halberd in hand, marched in between the open ranks.

They were a goodly company of men still, and conscious of their own grandeur and importance. As they passed up toward the chancel, the two lines of veterans presented arms. In a few moments the commandant entered, and then all the officers took their seats in the space nearest the choir. A loud roll of the drums, and the officer in command gives the word "order arms." Then a fine military band strikes up, and after its stirring strains have ceased the tones of the organ at the end of the church are heard, at first soft and low, then swelling loud and full, and at last gradually dying away. The priests in their gorgeous vestments are in their places before the altar, at either side of which—how strange the sight!—stands a soldier with lance upright. Between the priests and the congregation, halberd still in hand, is seen the stately figure of the Suisse. The solemn prayers are offered up, and the air grows heavy with incense. And now the music has ceased, and every sound is hushed as we reach the crowning point of the ceremony. The priest is about to elevate the host. Suddenly the Suisse strikes his staff fiercely upon the marble pavement. The drums furiously beat a salute. The soldiers present arms, then come to the "carry," then ground their arms in a peculiar way and fall upon one knee supported by their pikes. A little bell rings once, twice, thrice, perfect silence, and all are bowed to the ground. Again the bell rings, and we rise. The

soldiers shoulder their arms, and the band breaks forth again in victorious strains of martial music.

After this an anthem is sung, and the priests retire from the chancel. In a few moments the officers rise, and, preceded by the Suisse, pass out in reverse order through the opened ranks. The company of veterans closes up, faces, and marches out with drums beating, the drum corps halting just without the doors. The lances are left in the vestibule on the way, and the spectacle is over.

A few minutes later the officers reviewed the company in the Court of Honor. It was a singular sight as the column passed stiffly in review with the music of drums to which the aged veterans could with difficulty keep step. I noticed several wooden legs, or pins rather, among them; but the owners and their comrades went through all the forms with precision, and were then dismissed to their quarters.

INFANTRY FIELD WORKS.

This formed the subject of an important and interesting lecture delivered at Aldershot, England, by Lieut.-Col. Harrison, R.E. The lecturer in introducing the subject of the paper said it was so long since England had had a moveable army in the field that they, as a nation, were apt to forget that such an army was something more than a mere assemblage of soldiers, and that it required as much care in its constitution and in the provision necessary for its welfare as any newly-formed colony or newly-established town. Taking into consideration the possibility of England having at some future time to take the field against some foreign Power, he thought that it was always an interesting subject for soldiers to consider what was to be the constitution of an English army when taking the field. Of course they were all fully aware that an army taking the field had to provide for its own welfare and existence, as well as to contend against the enemy. In time of war convenient encampments could not always be chosen, and difficulties were encountered in consequence of the insufficiency of roads and an increased number of sick and wounded. The life of a soldier was far more fatiguing and harassing than that of a gipsy, and he maintained that it was a question which ought to be considered by every soldier how the comforts of an army would be best met in time of war. Referring to the subject of the lecture, the gallant colonel said that it had been frequently observed in history that the Romans won their conquest by a judicious use of the spade, and that Napoleon had upheld the use of fieldworks. The American war of 1860, the German and Austrian war of 1866, the Franco-Prussian war, as well as the present war between Russia and Turkey, taught and spoke highly of the use of the pick and shovel in time of war. The lecturer went lengthily into each of the above-mentioned wars, quoting instances of battles won entirely by the shelter afforded by earthworks. Having referred to the way in which the Turks had gallantly repulsed the Russians, Col. Harrison said that the importance of cover had been fully recognized by the Government, who had issued instructions relative to its advantage in the latest editions of the "Field Exercise." Having next spoken on the advantage of cover against shrapnel and rifle bullets, the lecturer said that the instructions issued by the Government stated that men skirmishing should be able to make cover for themselves if tools were provided for them, and that each group of four should have one pick and shovel. Speaking on the two kinds of cover used in modern warfare, that which was made at the spur of the moment and that to which more time and care had been given, Col. Harrison said that the former, which were known as infantry shelter-pits, to be of any use ought to be made by infantry themselves, for in awaiting the arrival of the engineer and the pioneer much valuable time would be wasted. The latter, which were known as earthworks, were made by engineers, who oftentimes were assisted by the infantry. It was necessary that some sort of tool should always be ready for the erection of those sort of works; and, according to the organization of the British army, troops were supplied with picks, and shovels, and spades; but in modern wars there was a difficulty in getting sufficient transport service for a moving army, and there was every possibility of the number of waggons becoming reduced and the supplies arriving when it was too late. With the present arrangement it was not always that the tools could be obtained at the exact moment. This want had been experienced, and it would, he thought, be admitted that the want had frequently brought about disaster to the force unprovided with them, and in modern war the disaster would be more serious than in ancient times. The importance of intrenching tools with an army, he submitted, was an important question, and, to prove his argument, he quoted the battle of Gravelotte, where a band of French soldiers succeeded in holding an intrenched position much longer than their comrades, who were exposed to the fire of the enemy. The lecturer also referred to the way in which the Turks had repulsed the Russians at Plevna. It was necessary that each infantry soldier should carry his own intrenching tool; and, after considering the various objections which had been raised against it, the principal one being that the soldier's kit at the present time was heavy enough without any additions being made to its weight, he (Col. Harrison) considered that a tool in the shape of a trowel should be supplied. The trowel would be about 2lb. in weight, and would be from 5in. to 6in. long in the blade, and about 5in. broad, ribbed at the back to ensure strength. It would also have three prongs at the end, to displace stones and hard soil. The soldier could also be supplied with sand-bags, which, when filled with the earth dug with the trowel, would act as an earthwork. They could also be carried forward at an advance, and thus time would be saved. The bags, when filled,

were practically bullet proof. Having dwelt at considerable length on the opinions of men of authority on the subject, the lecturer said that, although upholding the importance of every soldier carrying his own intrenching tools, he would not despise the use of the pick and shovel, as they could be used in erecting works of gigantic size. It was true that an earthwork could be erected twice as quickly with the pick and shovel as with the trowel; but where the advantage would be gained with the trowel would be that the men would have the tool at the required moment, and not have to wait until the waggons had arrived with the supply of picks and shovels. The trowel submitted would act as a rest for the rifle. In conclusion, Col. Harrison submitted, for the criticism of those present, that in order to construct at the right moment the cover required by infantry in modern times of war, it was advisable, if not necessary, that every infantry soldier should carry an intrenching tool, and the best tool would be a spade or trowel on the plan submitted. The tool in question, he contended, was sufficiently large to meet the need of the soldier in camp life, and rendering infantry independent of transport except to refill their pouches with rations and ammunition.

THE NAVY.

RUTHERFORD B. HAYES, *President and Com'dr-in-Chief*
RICHARD W. THOMPSON, *Secretary of the Navy*.
JOHN W. HOGG, *Chief Clerk*.

BUREAUS OF THE NAVY DEPARTMENT.

YARDS AND DOCKS—Rear-Admiral Jno. C. Howell.
NAVIGATION—Rear-Admiral Daniel Ammen.
EQUIPMENT AND RECRUITING—Commodore R. W. Shufeldt.
ORDNANCE—Commodore Wm. N. Jeffers.
MEDICINE AND SURGERY—Surgeon-General Wm. Grier.
PROVISIONS AND CLOTHING—P. M. G. Geo. F. Cutter.
STEAM ENGINEERING—Eng.-in-Chief Wm. H. Shock.
CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR—Chief Constructor John W. Easby.
FLAG OFFICERS AFLOAT.
EUROPEAN STATION—Rear-Admiral W. E. Le Roy.
ASIAN STATION—Rear-Admiral T. H. Patterson.
NORTH PACIFIC—Rear-Admiral Alex. Murray.
SOUTH PACIFIC—Rear-Admiral Geo. H. Preble.
SOUTH ATLANTIC—Commodore Edw. T. Nichols.
NORTH ATLANTIC—Rear-Admiral S. D. Trenchard.
FLAG OFFICERS ON SHORE DUTY.
NAVAL OBSERVATORY—Rear-Admiral John Rodgers, Supt.
NAVAL ASYLUM, PHILADELPHIA—Rear-Admiral J. R. M. Mullany.
NAVAL ACADEMY—Rear-Admiral C. R. P. Rodgers.
COMMANDANTS NAVY YARDS.
Commodore R. R. Colhoun, Navy-yard, Mare Island.
Commodore Foxhall A. Parker, Boston, Mass.
Commodore J. W. A. Nicholson, New York.
Commodore John C. Feibler, Washington, D.C.
Commodore J. Blakeley Creighton, Norfolk, Va.
Commodore Peirce Crosby, League Island, Penn.
Commodore John Guest, Portsmouth, N. H.
Captain George E. Belknap, Pensacola, Fla.
Commodore D. McNeill Fairfax, New London.

THE HURON CASE.

REPORT OF LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER GREEN.

U. S. NAVY-YARD, NORFOLK, Dec. 15, 1877.

Hon. R. W. Thompson, *Secretary of the Navy*, Washington, D.C.:

SIR: I have the honor to submit to the Department, the accompanying report, etc., from Lieut.-Commander Jas. G. Green, U. S. Navy, relative to the duties he was sent to perform in connection with the wreck of the *Huron*.

It is a source of great gratification that he and his party discharged their duties with such zeal, fidelity and thoroughness, and I respectfully recommend Lieut.-Commander Green, his officers and men, to the favorable notice and consideration of the Department.

Very respectfully, your obed't serv't,

J. BLAKELEY CREIGHTON,
Commander Commanding.

U. S. NAVY-YARD, NORFOLK, VA., Dec. 14, 1877.

To Commodore J. Blakeley Creighton, U. S. N., Commanding Naval Station, Va.:

SIR: In obedience to orders from Captain W. T. Truxtun, U. S. N., Acting Commandant of this Station, dated Nov. 27th, 1877, I proceeded to Nag's Head, in charge of a party, consisting of Master Chas. A. Clark, U. S. N., First Lieut. F. H. Harrington, U. S. M. C., and Asst. Surgeon Geo. Arthur, U. S. N., with 13 sailors and marines. On my arrival there, I proceeded immediately to the scene of the wreck of the U. S. S. *Huron*, and found the bodies of two men (Carson and Armstrong) that had just been brought on shore from the wreck. I had them buried there, and learning at the same time that other bodies had been found farther north, I left Lieut. Harrington and Asst. Surgeon Arthur and the marines at the wreck to take charge of anything of value that might come on shore, and started with Mr. Clark and five sailors, survivors from the *Huron*, up the coast. As I proceeded up the beach, I found bodies scattered along from one to seven miles apart for a distance of forty miles from the scene of the wreck. I examined in all the bodies of eight officers and seventy-five men, identifying eight officers and sixty-one men.

All the bodies were buried at the poles of the Government telegraph line. The poles being numbered systematically, the number of miles from Norfolk being designated by numeral and the poles in each mile by Roman characters.

Having examined all the bodies that I could hear of as having come on shore, I reported the fact by telegraph to Captain Truxtun and to the Hon. Secretary of the Navy, and returned to Nag's Head to await further instructions.

All the bodies recovered were in an advanced state of decomposition, rendering metallic cases necessary for transportation. Only six of the bodies could be identified by their features, the others by marks on their bodies and clothes.

On the 11th inst. I received a telegram from the Hon. Secretary of the Navy, authorizing me to return to Norfolk with the whole party. I left immediately, arriving here on the 12th, bringing the body of Chas. Chapman (Paymaster's Yeoman) taken from the wreck by the divers.

I feel indebted to the members of the "Palmer Island," "Carrituck" and Carrituck Light House Clubs, and particularly to the keeper of the Carrituck Beach Light House (Mr. Burroughs and family) for their kindness and hospitality to myself and party.

Mr. Wm. T. Brinkley, of Nag's Head, and Messrs. Baum and Poyner of Carrituck, did everything in their power to assist me, as well as the keepers of Life Saving Stations, Nos. 4, 5, and 6.

Before closing my report, I would respectfully call your favorable attention to the conduct of Charles A. Clark, U. S. N. He was ever zealous, vigilant and indefatigable in the discharge of his laborious duties while assisting me during my stay on the beach, and also my thanks are due to Lieut. F. H. Harrington, U. S. M. C., and Asst. Surgeon Arthur, for their untiring efforts to assist me in every way in their power. The marines

rendered efficient service in patrolling the beach night and day for a distance of seven miles north and south of the wreck. The sailors who were with me did their disagreeable duty of uncovering and identifying the bodies cheerfully under all circumstances, particularly Samuel Clark (O. S. E. F.), by whom most of the bodies were identified, he having marked a great many with india ink and recognized the marks whenever found. I enclose a list of the graves, also a chart giving the location of each grave.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JAS. G. GREEN,
Lieutenant Commander, U. S. Navy.

VARIOUS NAVAL ITEMS.

The *Swatara* left the Navy-yard, Norfolk, December 17.

The *Tallapoosa* left Washington, Dec. 15, for a trip to the eastern yards.

The *Plymouth* was at St. Thomas, Dec. 5.

The Court of Inquiry, on the loss of the *Huron*, submitted their report to the Secretary Dec. 17, and were dissolved.

The *Tuscarora*, at Mare Island, is to be employed in making soundings and running an open traverse from San Diego to Cape St. Lucas.

The *Kearns* was at Villefranche, Dec. 3, bound for the United States, and expected to sail Dec. 6. She has on board a number of invalid seamen from the European station.

The Court of Inquiry, composed of Vice-Admiral S. C. Rowan, president, Rear-Admiral Jno. Rodgers and Commo. R. H. Wyman, members, and Naval Solicitor Jno. A. Bolles, Judge-Advocate, closed its inquiry and submitted its proceedings and the following findings to the Secretary of the Navy on the 17th inst. The witnesses examined were the four surviving officers of the *Huron*, Rear-Admiral Trenchard, Professor B. F. Greene, T. S. Nagus, and nearly all of the surviving members of the crew. The report we give elsewhere in this number.

The following Navy and Army officers are among the guests at the Ebbitt House, Washington: Vice-Admiral Stephen C. Rowan, Rear-Admiral Roger N. Stembel, Captains Clark H. Wells, Samuel R. Franklin, Walter W. Queen, James E. Jonett, and John G. Walker; Paymasters G. A. Lyon and Henry T. Skelding; Passed Assistant Paymasters Stephen Rand and George H. Read; Assistant Paymaster A. K. Michler; Professors Wm. Harkness and H. D. Todd, and Capt. Wm. B. Remy, U. S. Marine Corps. General Wm. T. Sherman, Generals A. H. Terry, Thos. L. Crittenden, N. A. Miles; Colonels Dan. McClure, E. W. Smith, J. E. Tourtelotte, and J. M. Bacon, and Major Wirt Davis.

NAVY GAZETTE.

REGULAR NAVAL SERVICE

ORDERED.

DECEMBER 13.—Assistant Paymaster F. Plunkett, to take charge of the accounts and public stores in the paymaster's department of the U. S. steamer *Alarm*, in addition to his present duties.

Passed Assistant Engineer J. W. Hollihan, to duty in charge of the machinery of the torpedo boat *Interpide*, at the Navy-yard, New York.

Passed Assistant Engineers A. W. Morley and Henry L. Blosson, to hold themselves in readiness for duty on board the *Alaska*.

DECEMBER 14.—Lieutenant Charles Seymour, to duty at the Navy-yard, Portsmouth, N. H.

DECEMBER 17.—Lieutenant Henry C. Hunter, to the receiving ship *Independence*, at the Navy-yard, Mare Island, Cal., on the 18th January.

Lieutenant F. H. Delano, to the receiving ship *Wyoming*, at Washington, D. C.

Chaplain John K. Lewis, to the Navy-yard, Norfolk, Va., on the 3d January.

Carpenter John McFarlane, to the store ship *Onward*, at Callao, Peru, per steamer of 31st December from New York.

DECEMBER 18.—Commander Wm. A. Kirkland, to hold himself in readiness for the command of the Supply. The Supply has been selected as one of the vessels to carry goods to the French International Exhibition.

Passed Assistant Paymaster Theodore S. Thompson, to the New Hampshire, at Port Royal, S. C., on the 1st January.

DETACHED.

DECEMBER 13.—Assistant Surgeon James E. Gardner, from the receiving ship *Wabash*, at Boston, and ordered to the *Swatara*, at Norfolk, Va., on the 19th December.

Assistant Surgeon F. H. Terrell, from the *Swatara* on the 19th December, and placed on waiting orders.

DECEMBER 14.—Lieutenant T. C. McLean, from duty at the Torpedo Station, and granted leave of absence for three months.

Assistant Paymaster W. W. Barry has reported his return home, having been detached from the *Onward* on the 21st November, and has been ordered to settle accounts.

Boatswain John Smith has reported his return home, having been detached from the *Omaha* on the 18th November, and has been placed on waiting orders.

DECEMBER 17.—Master Wm. P. Conway, Ensign Lucien Young, Assistant Engineer R. G. Denig and Cadet Engineer E. T. Warburton, from the late *Huron*, and ordered to proceed home and wait orders.

Lieutenant B. S. Richards has reported his return home, having been detached from the *Lackawanna* on the 17th December, and has been placed on waiting orders.

Carpenter John L. Davis, from the store ship *Onward* on the reporting of his relief, and ordered to return home and report arrival.

DECEMBER 18.—Commodore Chas. H. Baldwin, from duty as a member of the Board of Examiners and also of the Retiring Board, on the 31st December, and placed on waiting orders.

Paymaster R. W. Allen, from duty on board the *New Hampshire* on the 1st January, and ordered to settle accounts.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED.

To Commander Edward P. McCrea, for one year, with permission to leave the United States.

To Medical Inspector Wm. M. King, attached to the Navy-yard, Norfolk, for one month from December 27.

To Assistant Naval Constructor J. F. Hanscom, attached to the Navy-yard, League Island, Pa., from December 24 until January 7.

To Master Henry S. Green, attached to the *Saratoga*, at Norfolk, for fifteen days from December 20.

To Chief Engineer W. W. Dungan, attached to the Navy-yard, League Island, for ten days from December 24.

To Chief Engineer Wm. S. Smith, attached to the *Ossipee*, at Norfolk, Va., for two weeks from December 17.

To Passed Assistant Paymaster Louis A. Yorks, for three months, with permission to leave the United States.

To Gunner C. N. Young, attached to the *Tallapoosa*, for one month from December 14.

To Gunner R. J. Hill, attached to the training ship *Minnesota*, for one month from December 20.

LEAVE EXTENDED.

The leave of Lieutenant S. F. Clarkson has been extended three months.

ORDERS REVOKED.

The orders of Ensign Frank E. Sawyer, to the receiving ship *Wyoming*, at Washington.

The orders of Lieutenant Henry C. Hunter to the *Tuscarora* have been revoked and he has been placed on waiting orders.

COMMISSIONED.

Commodore Daniel Ammen to be a Rear-Admiral in the Navy from December 11, 1877.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Those officers who, while serving on the *Minnesota*, *Montauk*, *Wyandotte*, *Lehigh*, *Catskill*, *Manhattan*, *Mahopac*, *Ajax*, *Intrepid*, *Monongahela*, and other vessels, were, in July and September, 1876, put on other duty pay, having since been allowed sea pay, will receive credit for sea service on the Navy Register.

LIST OF DEATHS

In the Navy of the United States, which have been reported to the Surgeon-General for the week ending December 19, 1877:

John W. Harden, landsman, December 12, U. S. Naval Hospital, New York.

The ordinary Austrian army estimates this year are higher by two millions of florins than in the previous year. The extraordinary estimates show an increase of four millions.

A NUMBER of telephones for experimental use in the Russian army are being made in Berlin, where the result is awaited with great curiosity.

In consequence of the failure of the last Russian loan, it is stated that the Russian government has repaid the Berlin bankers only sixty per cent. of their advances previously made. The remainder is to be paid on a future occasion.

The immense development of the Prussian navy of late years has aroused the attention of the smaller Northern Powers to their means of naval defence. The Danes are straining every nerve to reinforce their fleet, which is practically their only effective means of warfare. Up to the last six or eight years they were able to hold their own in the Baltic and North Sea, but recent additions to the German navy have reduced them to a position of decided inferiority. The Swedish navy consists of four iron-clad monitors and ten protected gunboats, one screw line-of-battle ship, one frigate, three corvettes, twelve gunboats, four sailing corvettes, and one sailing brig. Three additional corvettes, the *Saga*, the *Verandi*, and the *Skuld*, are under construction. The first of these is to carry one gun of 5.63 inch, and six guns of four inches, the other one 9.24 inch rifled breech-loader, and one 4 inch rifled muzzle-loader. Two gunboats are also being built, and will be similarly armed to the corvettes, and three more powerful guns are devised. Finally, a torpedo boat, called the *Ran*, is to be constructed, fitted with the Whitehead torpedo, and armed with one gun. The Norwegian navy is very weak. If an alliance could be cemented between the three Northern Powers regarding the employment of the navy, Germany, in the event of hostilities, would meet no mean antagonist.

The Russian iron-clad frigate *General Admiral* on the 18th of November ran foul of a vessel laden with stones in the harbor of Cronstadt, and was damaged so seriously that it is doubtful if she can be kept afloat. Another account of this accident is that during a great gale several vessels went down outside the harbor of Cronstadt, a large number of barges were sunk at St. Petersburg, and a partial inundation of the latter city took place. The *General Admiral* went ashore, having parted her cable shortly after midnight. Another anchor was let go immediately, but she parted from that also, and in a few minutes afterwards went with great force between the citadel and the Mole. Fortunately all hands were saved. The amount of damage done to the vessel cannot be estimated till she goes into dock, but she is supposed to be severely strained. The *General Admiral* only arrived at Cronstadt a few days before, and had undergone a trial which resulted in her being declared the finest vessel in the Russian navy. At present she lies imbedded in four feet of mud. The Gulf of Finland not being subject to the influence of tides, all that can be done is to remove her weights and allow her to remain on shore until the next equinoctial gale causes the water to rise and float her off. Such, at any rate, is the idea of the *Globe* correspondent; but it would seem that the waves lashed by the "equinoctial gale" are just as likely to break the *General Admiral* up altogether.

GEN. GOURKHO, in a recent address to the officers of the Imperial Guard, is reported to have said: "There can be no greater happiness for a soldier than to read troops with the firm conviction that they must be victorious; and the Guard, by its composition and its military training is, one may safely say, the first body of troops in the world. Do not forget, gentlemen, that you are about to fight, not only before the eyes of all Russia, but in presence of the whole world, and that the result of the task we have undertaken depends upon your success. To troops who have been well trained there is nothing very remarkable in a battle. It is simply a military exercise, with the substitution of ball for blank cartridge; only it requires much more composure, much more order. Let the soldier thoroughly understand that his duty consists in economizing (with emphasis) his cartridges on the field of battle, his biscuits at the bivouac; and remember that you command Russian soldiers, who will follow their officers wherever they are led." Gen. Gourkho addressed the soldiers in another style. "Remember, my children," he said, "that you are the Guard of the Emperor of Russia, and that the whole of Christendom

has its eyes upon you. The Turks fire from a great distance, and fire a great deal. That is their affair. You, my children, have been taught only to fire when you see something to fire at. Fire seldom, but fire straight, and reserve your energies for bayonet charges, which the enemy cannot stand. Do not forget, men of the Guard, that you have been better treated than the rest of the army. You have been better lodged, better fed, better taught. The time has come for you to prove that you were worthy of so much attention."

A LETTER from the Prince de Joinville, addressed to a citizen of Washington, May, 1865, who, during the Rebellion, was a firm friend of our Government, uses the following remarkable language: "You must be proud, sir, of the doings of your Navy. With the brilliant exploit of Commodore Winslow has the tide of victory turned with you. The achievements in Mobile Bay are without parallel and throw the greatest honor on your flag. All naval men pay a just tribute of admiration to Admiral Farragut and his brother officers and men. This war will leave your Navy in a very efficient state, and in a feeling of confidence in itself which is half the success. Not so in European navies. Ours is tired and disgusted by the odious service of transports imposed upon it. The British navy after a long period of inaction and furnished with ships and men it has no confidence in, is not what it was formerly. Both navies continue to build sea going broadside ironclads of immense size, which may be easily sunk by a miserable torpedo, and the tide is coming to small ironclads with two to four guns—monitor fashion. For long cruisers, fast unclad screw sloops—*Alabama* fashion—seem to be appropriate. Upon all these points you have the lead. . . . It is from the United States that we expect the production of the large rifled gun for sea service, as soon as your clever workmen shall have turned their minds to the production of built-up guns of steel or wrought iron. That heavy gun is much wanted since the battle of Mobile has so much shaken the confidence in the employment of rams."

ACCOUNTS from Armenia explain how Ghazi Moukhtar suffered defeat at Deve Boyun and allowed himself to be driven back with great slaughter upon Erzerum. A force of cavalry was drawn up as a bait in front of the Turkish positions, and apparently unsupported. The Moslems, no doubt exasperated by so much audacity, rushed out of the defiles to drive off the enemy, and were surprised by large masses of infantry, which had hidden themselves during the night in some ravines intersecting the plain. It does not often occur that infantry charge cavalry; it is usually quite the reverse. We can, however, call to mind a memorable occasion upon which British infantry blundered against French cavalry—in the year 1759, Marshals Contades and Broglie on one side, and Prince Ferdinand, with Hanoverians, Hessians, and English, on the other. The French Horse, 10,000 strong, were placed in the centre and opposite the six regiments of British infantry. The English had orders to attack "on sound of drum," which order was interpreted to mean to charge with drums beating. Hence the error. Impatient at seeing the cavalry opposite to them, the six regiments, with drums beating, marched straight ahead in the double, in spite of a cross fire of artillery, and to the great astonishment of the seventy-five squadrons of French Horse, who charge, get broken, and pursued. After trying two more charges, with no better result, they retire in disorder. Tempelhoff, in his military work, says this was "an unsurpassable thing;" and, as for poor Marshal de Contades, he could only throw up his arms and exclaim, "I have seen what I never thought possible—a single line of infantry break through three lines of cavalry drawn up in battle array, and put them to utter confusion!" Had Lord George Sackville charged during this confusion—but he did not.

The London *Daily News* special correspondent in Turkey writes from Bogot, Nov. 6, that an interesting trial of a novel instrument of recent invention took place at headquarters that day, in presence of the Grand Duke, Prince Charles, and the staffs. The instrument is a combination bayonet and intrenching tool, known as the Rice Bayonet, being manufactured for use in the Army of the United States; and the inventor, Col. Edmund Rice, of that Army, at present visiting the seat of war, was invited to exhibit the weapon, and illustrate the method of employing it. It is a blade of steel about a foot long and three inches wide, similar in form to an American bowie knife, with one edge sharp and the other serrated, and fitted with a lock shank to attach it to the rifle like a sabre bayonet. From its peculiar form it seems to combine the usefulness both of the trowel and bayonet. It has been for some time employed by the United States Army in Indian fighting, and is a very convenient and practical tool for multitudinous uses in camp and bivouac. Col. Rice constructed in three minutes a rifle pit sufficiently large to completely shelter one rifleman, thus showing that it is perfectly possible for a line of men to cover themselves from musketry fire within the time mentioned. Several Staff officers made use of the weapon with equally satisfactory results. Just at the present moment, when the attention of every one is turned to the manipulation of the Bulgarian soil, which should have been studied earlier in the campaign, experiments like those made to-day are, of course, of the highest interest and value. The Russian army came into Bulgaria almost unprovided with shovels and intrenching tools. Nearly every battle has proved the necessity of some easy and rapid means of providing cover for lines of men under infantry fire, and immense losses have demonstrated the utter uselessness of attempting to stand up before modern breechloading rifles even in inexperienced hands. The Turkish soldier seeks cover naturally. The Russian is only now beginning to learn what cover is.

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Nothing in the present war, says the *Naval and Military Gazette* of London, has been more surprising than the little that has been accomplished by the Turkish fleet, especially on the Danube. When the war broke out the Turks had a flotilla on the Danube consisting of the following vessels: *Fethi Islam* ("Moslem Victory"), *Buryeidelau* ("Heart-piercer"), *Semendria*, *Scodra*, and *Podgoritz*, the last three taken from names of places. These five vessels were small craft about 150 feet long, fitted with 80 horse-power engines, and carried each of them two 80-pounder Armstrong guns in a battery protected by 2-inch armor. In addition to these armored gunboats, there were two of recent construction, and much more formidable—the *Isber* ("Lion") and *Saiffe* ("Sword"). These vessels each carried two 80-pounder Krupp guns in revolving turrets on the upper deck, protected by 3-inch armor, and a belt of the same thickness was placed round the water-line. Their length was 120 feet, and the horse-power of the engines 100. Then there were several wooden steamers armed as gunboats; and two large sea-going monitors, the *Loot-ji-Djellil* and *Hiftu Rahum*, were sent up the river on the declaration of war. All this formidable force has disappeared, or been completely checkmated. The *Loot-ji-Djellil* was the first vessel destroyed by accident, as the Turks aver, by artillery fire, as the Russians assert. Of the armored gunboats three have been lost—the *Saiffe*, destroyed by a torpedo, and the *Scodra* and *Podgoritz*, both of which fell into Russian hands on the taking of Nicopolis. Besides the vessels above named, the Turks have lost four wooden vessels—the *Sulina*, a regular 60 horse-power gunboat of the old type, designed for the Baltic during the war 1855, and three river steamers, one destroyed by a torpedo, and the others by the fire of Russian batteries. Thus the whole naval power of the Turks in the Danube has been either destroyed, captured, or neutralized. Even in the Black Sea nothing has been accomplished by the Ottoman navy at all in proportion to its immense preponderance of force. There is no doubt that if Hobart Pasha could have his way unfettered by jealous palace influences, he would accomplish something calculated greatly to "astonish" the Russians. At present, however, these influences have been sufficient to reduce him to a condition of comparative inaction which must be most galling to his spirit.

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THE RIOT AT SAN ELIZARIO.

THE disturbance in El Paso County, Texas, which has excited so much attention during the present week, was a local brawl, magnified and misrepresented, with much persistence, as a Mexican invasion. It was simply the revival of the riot of ten weeks ago, this time with a more tragic result. In response to Gov. HUBBARD's call for help, all the troops that could be spared were put in motion at once from Forts Bayard, Stanton and Davis, and from San Felipe; but before any of them could arrive, the small squad of Texan rangers surrendered, together with the citizens whom they were guarding from popular fury. The mob shot three of the prisoners, and then dispersed.

The scene of this triumph of mob law is in the extreme western corner of Texas, near the New Mexico line. There, the Rio Grande so forks as to enclose a narrow island, about twenty miles long, comprising the villages of Ysleta, Socorro and San Elizario, the latter the largest, and the county seat of El Paso County. El Paso del Norte is the considerable Mexican town stretching loosely down the valley on the western bank of the river. All three of the Texan towns are mostly inhabited by people of Mexican race, and in fact all but perhaps a couple of score of the residents of El Paso County are of Mexican descent.

The origin of the disturbances is clear. Several months ago, a banker named ZIMPELMAN, of Austin, undertook with others to "locate" some land claims in El Paso County, which included sundry salt lagoons or ponds. These salt ponds had been used from time immemorial by the people of El Paso County, and, very likely, by the Mexicans on the opposite shore, as common property. They not only used the salt for domestic purposes, but they gathered it and carted it to Chihuahua, where it supplied household needs, and was also largely employed in the metal-working at the mines. The agent of ZIMPELMAN in El Paso County was one C. H. HOWARD, his son-in-law, said to be a Virginian by birth, but a resident of Texas, formerly an officer in the Confederate army, and a practising attorney in El Paso County, where also he had received from the Governor an appointment as a local judge. When HOWARD notified the El Paso people, last September, that they could have no more salt without paying for it, they scouted the idea of his being able to take away their traditional privileges. But when he undertook to arrest two persons as trespassers on the salt works, the populace of the island arose, seized him, and took him, with one Judge McBRIDE, and carried them in a cart to San Elizario. This was on the 30th of September. The sheriff of the county,

CHARLES KERBER, undertook to interfere, when the mob seized him and all the other civil authorities, most of whom were Americans or under the influence of the few Americans.

It will be remembered that at that time a great cry was raised that the Mexicans had crossed the Rio Grande in force, had captured San Elizario, and had threatened to massacre every American in the county. This news produced a profound sensation in the country. In Texas, the rangers collected, and in New Orleans tenders were made of State militia to march at once to the Rio Grande. But the bubble of invasion was pricked by General SHERIDAN, who had already sent word to Gen. POPE to find out the truth of the trouble; and from Lieut. RUCKER, who had hastened to El Paso. Gen. SHERIDAN had the true story in season to offset the mischief of the false one. On that occasion, as in the present, Army officers furnished the only accurate news, and it was news-tending to dissipate the fears of war.

Lieut. RUCKER, on arriving, found that the riot was over; he even met twenty of the mob escorting HOWARD, the salt agent, to a place of safety, and the other prisoners were in like manner released. He further found and reported that "during the seven days that the mob was in existence, no blood was shed, nor any acts of violence committed, except threatening the lives of Americans." The terms of settlement he reported to be a paper signed by HOWARD agreeing to allow the free use by the people of the salt, as before, to refrain from prosecuting any of the mob or any of those who has taken salt, and to quit the county at once and forever.

It is clear at once that the second riot arose out of the return of HOWARD in defiance of this agreement. The county court was to be held at San Elizario the present week; and, a few days ago, HOWARD made his appearance at El Paso, from Mesilla, where he had been staying, and announced his intention of attending the court. This was a very bold move on his part, especially as he had angered the people, during the former riot, by killing, in a street brawl, LOUIS CARDIS, a popular leader, HOWARD's great rival in politics as well as his enemy in the salt affair, who had beaten him in the election for State Senator from El Paso County. Believing he had come to revive his projects and perhaps to punish them, the mob reassembled, threatening to seize him again, and it was at first reported that HOWARD had again fled to Mesilla; but it now appears that he either at once returned, or else stayed to breast his fate. He collected around him a small squad of rangers, of Major Jones's battalion, and fought the mob that besieged him.

The result was what we have already described. At the surrender, HOWARD and McBRIDE were shot, probably on the ground that they had violated their promises given at their former capture and release. ATKINSON, the third victim, seems to have been a ranger, singled out for some reason not as yet reported.

It is palpable enough that this riot was one of purely local character. Very likely some Mexican citizens may have been on the ground or have crossed from El Paso to see it, as in case of a riot in New York some persons might cross from Jersey City, attracted by the sensation. But to present the affair as an armed Mexican invasion, as the Texan authorities have done, is preposterous. Again, it is clear that, while the riot was a pure instance of lynching, HOWARD, at least, tempted his fate. He probably considered the former action of the mob an outrage, and his promise not binding; but it was a dearly-paid rashness which caused him to reappear at San Elizario with so small a force to sustain him.

Gov. HUBBARD was plainly justified in calling on the President for troops to suppress this riot. The need was urgent, and he had no State troops that could be got there in season. He had the same right to ask for help from the U. S. forces that Gov. HARTMAN had in Pennsylvania last July. The troops nearest at hand were Companies A, B, C, and G, of the 9th Cavalry, and Company E, of the 15th Infantry, from Fort Bayard, and Companies F, H, and M, of the 9th Cavalry, and Company H, of the 15th Infantry, from Fort Stanton. Had there been a proper garrison for Fort Bliss, directly opposite El Paso del Norte, the required assistance could have been provided in a few minutes. But congressional economy had reduced that station to a nominal one.

THE QUESTION OF PROMOTION.

ASIDE from the question of reorganization the subject of promotion is the one which chiefly occupies the attention of the Army, and especially that of the younger officers. And yet the question is one which they must of necessity approach with the greatest delicacy, affecting, as it does, the status of those to whom they justly yield the deference due to their superiors in rank, whose long and honorable service entitles them to all possible consideration. The gist of the whole matter is this—our officers are growing old. From the General-in-Chief, through the field officers, down to the captains, and even some of the 1st lieutenants, all are approaching that time of life, when the comfortable fireside, the congenial family circle, the desire for repose, are slowly sapping the foundations of the energy which once permeated every nerve; quenching that fire which warmed the blood in the midst of toil, danger, and privation, the pomp, the circumstance, the bustle of glorious war.

When NAPOLEON at the age of twenty-seven gathered around him such young men as MASSÉNA, as LANNES, as MURAT, as DESAIX, and NEY, the victories of Arcole, of Castiglione, of Lodi, were won, but when these same men, and others equally brave and heroic, had grown rich with honor and this world's goods, fat with luxurious living, and enervated by advancing years, the disasters of the Russian campaign, of Leipzig, and the crowning agony of Waterloo, became possibilities. There is a time for all things. Certain work is allotted to the period of youth, to full manhood, and to the wisdom of mature years. Old age is the season of repose, when men may enjoy, with what zest is left them, the fruits of their labors.

An examination of the following tabular statement shows the average ages of the field officers of our Army. It has not been extended to the Staff Corps (where, beyond a doubt, a higher average would be found than in the Line), because the duties of Staff officers do not usually call for the display of the same physical power that may be demanded of those serving in the Line:

Average ages of Field Officers of Cavalry, Artillery, and Infantry.

Cavalry.			Artillery.			Infantry.		
Cols.	Lieut.-Cols.	Majs.	Cols.	Lieut.-Cols.	Majs.	Cols.	Lieut.-Cols.	Majs.
50-4-10	51-5-10	45-9-10	59-2-5	55-1-5	54-1-5	52-4-5	53-1-5	44-4-5

The above table shows that in the artillery the difference between the average ages of the colonels and majors is only about five years. In five years hence, at the same ratio, the average ages of the colonels of artillery will be about sixty-five years, and the majors about sixty years; and the older captains who would, in the natural course of promotion, succeed to the field positions, as vacancies occur, are not spring chickens by any manner of means, and many have grown gray while waiting for the oak leaves to fall upon their shoulders.

Referring next to the cavalry, which should have been noticed first, in the natural order, the queer fact is observed that the average ages of the lieutenant-colonels is greater than that of the colonels; but this is owing to the rapid promotion of two very gallant young officers, who were especially favored by circumstances during the war, and had the good fortune to have their merits recognized at its conclusion.

In the infantry branch of the Service the same uniformity is found between the grades, down to the ranking captains, who are found to be marching close on the heels of the majors—their seniors; and in ten years there will be the oldest lot of captains ever seen on the active list of any army, unless "a bloody war or a sickly season" should intervene.

In ten years if a change is not made in the law regulating the method of retirements, there will not be one-fourth part of the present field officers in the Army physically capable of supporting the hardships of an active campaign. They will be worn out old men. There is no profession more wearing upon men than the military profession, and sound policy would seem to suggest the absolute necessity for some system of retirement by which the leaders of the Army may be kept up to the same standard of effectiveness required of the rank and file.

Our officers are growing old in a long, honorable, and faithful service. Many of them now deserve the calm repose which their faithful service to the coun-

try so justly entitles them. Many carry upon their persons wounds received in battle. It is believed that many of the older officers would gladly welcome some such law, as is now, and has been for many years, in operation in the Navy, and would retire, when their turn came, as gracefully and as cheerfully as those gallant gentlemen do in the Navy, who have carried the flag of their country into every sea, and displayed it in all the principal ports of the civilized globe.

Congress cannot ignore this question of retirement much longer. If it is not now calmly considered, when no especial emergency presses upon the country, it may rise into prominence at a crisis when, perhaps, there may be no time to give it that deliberation so important a measure would seem to demand. The only hope the true soldier has, as a recompense for what he sacrifices in the service of his country, is that inspired by the prospect of advancement. Not the advancement which may come when he has passed the meridian of life, but the promotion which advances him to a position in which he may, should the opportunity offer, win for himself honorable distinction.

The younger officers look to Congress, not with the selfishness that would seek to dispossess brave and honorable men of their hard earned commissions; but with the knowledge that the hour of danger to the country may come sooner than the peaceful aspect of affairs would now indicate, and the defence and honor of the country will depend upon the officers who are now holding subordinate positions, just as was the case sixteen years ago when the veterans of the Mexican war gave place to younger and more active men. The door should be opened for advancement to the younger men that they may have an opportunity of improving their military knowledge, and of acquiring practically the facility for commanding considerable bodies of men, which can only be attained by practice.

The recommendations of the Secretary of War in this direction were wise and well timed, but scarcely as comprehensive as might be desired. Let a law be passed resembling in its general features the Naval Retirement bill. Let it be made mandatory, except in cases where an officer has rendered such distinguished services to the country that it would be an especial distinction to retain him on the active list as long as he lived. With such a law the younger officers would know what to expect and hope for, or at least, whether they would be likely to die second lieutenants or field officers.

A CORRESPONDENT who signs himself "J. McG., Hydrographic Office," draws our attention to what he calls a gross error in regard to our statement of the bearing of Bodie's Island Light-house, from the point of departure, as given by Ensign Young. A hasty copy, it is true, made us say that the course was S. 18 deg. E., distance 73 miles, when we should have said S. 15 deg. E., 72 miles, assuming that the positions of Cape Henry Light-house and Bodie's Island Light-house are given correctly in Bowditch Navigator, which is entirely probable, as they are on the authority of the late Prof. A. D. BACHE, Supt. of Coast Survey. But this does not affect our general remark which follows, since that had reference to the course steered by TRAINOR at 6 P. M., and he testified as to the latest course before the disaster happened. He says, "S. by E., nothing to S.," or, let us say, S. 12 deg. E., or 2 deg. more to the southward than the course from Mr. YOUNG's position to Bodie's Island Light-house. "If this statement of the course is correctly given then, etc." But "J. McG." falls into difficulty himself when he says the true course between Cape Henry Light-house and Bodie's Island Light-house is "S. by E. 1-8 E.," and distance 70 miles.

Apart from the fact that seamen do not usually reckon courses by thirds of points, but by points, half points, quarter points, or else in degrees and minutes, "J. McG." of Hydrographic Office, has made a considerable error himself, for the true course between these points, worked by Mercators, Sailing and Inspection, is S. 18 deg. 30 min. E., and distance 73 miles. This seems a trivial cavil, but in light of the strong language used by our critic it is well to call his attention to his own greater error.

After all the point we sought to make and we believe have made is that the *Huron's* course on the night of Nov. 23d was highly unsafe, and necessarily, under the circumstances, led the ship to destruction. "S. by E. 3-4 E.," let alone "S. by E., nothing to S.," was not the course to be steered under the circumstances. The Report of the Court of Inquiry as to this matter justifies our censure, and in fact bears it out to a remarkable degree. Blunders of navigation

and lack of practical seamanship caused the loss of the vessel, we said, and so says the Court of Inquiry, whose report we give herewith. We refer to it as our justification for the criticisms we have been compelled to make, though most reluctantly.

The court of inquiry into the causes of the *Huron* disaster have reported the testimony and their findings to the Secretary of the Navy, as follows:

Agreeably to the order of the Navy Department of November 30, 1877, the court has diligently inquired into the causes or causes which led to the particulars of the grounding and loss of the U. S. steamer *Huron*, Commander G. P. Ryan, then commanding, on the coast of the State of North Carolina, and into the facts and incidents connected therewith. The court has also carefully inquired whether the instructions to officers commanding vessels of war, on approaching land or shoals, were observed, and especially whether paragraph 14d, pages 51, 56, 41, 4, and 58, Navy Regulations of A. D. 1876, were, in all respects, complied with. From the evidence in the case it appears that soundings were regularly taken every hour during the night of the 23d and 24th of November last. There is a discrepancy in the evidence as to the depth of water as reported by the witnesses. From this discrepancy the court is unable to find what soundings were actually reported, and, consequently, how far the indications of the lead would have served to keep the vessel off the coast. The court finds that some of the witnesses report the soundings as being up and down, and others that there was considerable drift. The court finds that the deviation of the compasses was carefully established by Benj. F. Greene, Professor of Mathematics U. S. Navy, who is attached to the Bureau of Navigation, and in charge of the compasses of the Navy at Hampton Roads in February, 1876, and that these deviations were furnished to the commanding officer of the *Huron* in a tabulated form for each point of the compass, for horizontal and heeling variations.

These, together with the variation of the compass, should have made the direction of the *Huron* lead south-southeast, $\frac{1}{2}$ east, the court finds, and that with these compasses the ship made a cruise through the Windward Islands to Aspinwall, and to Mobile and to Hampton Roads; that the navigating officer made observations for local deviations in lower latitudes, and again, in the harbor of New York, in November last, after the ship came out of the dock; that the *Huron* was inspected in Hampton Roads in November, 1877, by a board of officers ordered by Rear-Admiral Trenchard, Commander-in-Chief of the North Atlantic Squadron, to which the *Huron* was attached, which board of officers reported the ship perfect in all her equipments and stores, and in good condition, and ready for sea in all respects; that the *Huron* sailed for Hampton Roads on the 3d of November, 1877, by permission asked by signal of Rear-Admiral Trenchard by Commander Ryan, and was not ordered to proceed to sea without regard to weather or by any authority whatever; that there was no weather signal station at Hampton Roads; that she took her departure at 1:25 o'clock in the afternoon Cape Henry light bearing west by south at the estimated distance of five to seven miles; that the course given by the standard compass was south by east, $\frac{1}{2}$ east, as testified by Ensign Young; that Master Conway gives the course south by east, $\frac{1}{2}$ east, differing from Ensign Young $\frac{1}{2}$ point to the south; that Ensign Young's course is corroborated by Patrick Hase, who states that he looked at the standard compass three times while stationed at the life buoy, and was certain that south by east, $\frac{1}{2}$ east, was the course steered there; that the ship was steered on this course under reefed sails, a steam, close-hauled, logging five to six knots, with forty to fifty pounds of steam, and $\frac{3}{8}$ holes of the throttle valve open, moderate to fresh wind from the southward of east, moderate weather and hazy, with considerable sea; that the bearing by standard compass of Currituck light was taken at 6:45 P. M., estimated distance seven to eight miles; that the light was in sight at midnight, bearing sharp on the quarter; that the lookouts were stationed and vigilant; that nothing was omitted which could be done to save life and property after the vessel grounded; that the conduct of the officers and crew were admirable, cool and obedient to orders to the last; that officers and crew testify that they have no complaint to make against any of the surviving officers and crew of the *Huron*, and nothing to lay to the charge of any officer or man on the occasion of the loss or with regard thereto; that she grounded and was lost about eight miles north of Bodie's Island, as indicated on the chart attached to the report, soon after 1 o'clock A. M., November 24, 1877. The court finds that after the grounding of the vessel the sea swept so furiously over her that all attempts to use the remaining boats were useless, some saving being swept away or disabled before they could be used; and attempts to get over the guns were made but in vain, as the men were swept by the sea from the falls.

The concurrent testimony of all the officers and men is that the *Huron* was, at the time of sailing from Hampton Roads and until her grounding, thoroughly strong, staunch, seaworthy and well-found. It is doubted by some of the witnesses whether she belged under the heavy pressure to which she was subjected in driving up to six feet water; and one witness states that it was a whimper to all that any ship should stand such thumping so well. One witness also states that as she bumped her bottom buckled upward, and afterward, to all appearance, resumed each time her original form. The engines performed well throughout, and only finally stopped when apparently the accumulation of sand under the stern and the deviation from line of the shaft stopped the revolving of the propeller. The court finds that the paragraphs of the Navy Regulations of 1876, No. 145, page 51; No. 56, page 41, and No. 4, page 58, were complied with in all respects, and that the regulation in regard to bending chains, &c., the court apprehends, only to vessels coming from sea. Yet the court thinks it unwise and unseamanlike to unbend the chains in making what was intended to be a coasting voyage. The grounding of the *Huron*, however, is in no degree attributable to this error, for after she was on shore it was too late for the anchors to be of use. Every officer in command of a ship is in supreme command. It is he who is responsible for the course. It is he who is to see that proper allowances are made for every cause which may deflect the vessel from her intended direction; and it is he who is responsible for an accident which may occur from an error in her navigation. The court is, therefore, of opinion, that Commander Ryan is primarily responsible for the grounding and loss of the *Huron*. The navigating officer is also responsible for not taking bearings to Currituck Light after passing it, and while it remained in sight, which, by showing the direction from a fixed point, would have established the *Huron's* proximity to land.

It was his duty to take such bearings, even though not ordered to do so by the commanding officer. The court does not find that any other officer or man is in any way responsible for the loss of the *Huron*, except possibly, that the officers of the deck may not have personally inspected the soundings and seen that the depths reported were the perpendicular depths obtained. The court on examining the chart returned herewith as part of this record, and which is a duplicate of the one used on the *Huron*, find that the soundings off this portion of the coast are so irregular that depths less than 30 fathoms can give no reliable information in regard to position or distance from the shore. In the opinion of the court, as before stated, the U. S. S. *Huron* was a well-found, staunch, seaworthy vessel. Her engines performed well under all circumstances; there was no stress of wind or weather, and she proceeded to sea at the discretion of her commanding officer. The requirements of sounding and taking bearings seem to have been observed, except that no back bearings appear to have been taken, as has already been stated, and the court does not consider that a seamanlike attention and precision were given to either the soundings or the bearings taken. The court is of the opinion that no sufficient allowance was made for the inset toward the coast, and that the course steered was, from error of judgment, too much to the southward. It is the opinion of the court that with due caution and by carefully taken and plotted bearings of Currituck Light the close proximity of the *Huron* to the coast would have been made manifest; and, furthermore, that it was unseamanlike to carry sail on a lee shore, those sails lifting and the natural desire to keep the sails full probably inducing the quartermaster to run to leeward of his course, and the lifting sails having a tendency to drag the vessel to leeward. In conclusion the court would state that the evidence shows that many well found merchant steamers, wooden and iron, commanded by experienced navigators of our coast, have been wrecked near the point on which the *Huron* was lost.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications published under this head. His purpose is to allow the largest freedom of discussion consistent with propriety and good feeling.

REFORM IN NAVAL UNIFORM.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR: Will you allow me to say a few words about the article on reform in naval uniform in your issue of December 1? While admitting the truth of many of the criticisms on the uniform made by "Sea Officer," I am of the opinion that the majority of officers are strongly opposed to any change whatever. It is perfectly natural that some should be opposed to one article of uniform as now existing, and others to another, and the same would be the case after any change. Perfection cannot be attained, and something more than individual disapproval should be brought up as an argument for a change. I know of one vessel in which every officer in the ward room mess signed a petition that no changes whatever be made in the uniform.

"Sea Officer" must be aware that there is only one "full dress coat." This, by the words of the regulation, "will be worn" on occasions of special official ceremony. There is another peculiar Pickwickian garment which "may be worn" in social intercourse. Although the first mentioned, the full dress coat, is not very comfortable, it is, in the opinion of all officers that I have spoken to, to be preferred as a dress uniform coat, to the other. It is worn so seldom that one can stand an occasional trial, rather than throw away so expensive an uniform, and purchase another, that will be worn no oftener, that will undoubtedly be superseded before it is worn out, and that is in itself, in the opinion of most officers, unfit for uniform. Not one officer in twenty owns one, and the other nineteen never wants to, and would be sorry to have the coat adopted as compulsory. Let it remain in its present condition of being allowed, or else abolished.

The same argument that "Sea Officer" gives for the retention of epaulets could be applied to shoulder straps. They are neat, and add greatly to the appearance of the uniform, and if abolished would probably be replaced by the next board of reform by the abomination of shoulder knots.

Economy in uniform can best be attained by allowing officers to wear the uniforms they now possess, and not require them to throw away good clothing and purchase new. To many officers the expense of a full dress suit is a serious item, and one that they do not wish to encounter. A full dress suit once purchased will last for years of ordinary wear, and although it was to be replaced by a cheaper uniform, it appears that true economy would not call for throwing away a seventy dollar coat, as good as when it was bought, to purchase one worth fifty dollars in its place. Most officers would regard that as sheer waste of money.

A change of uniform would in no degree tend to uniformity. The different uniforms now have their respective uses, explicitly defined, and it is in the power of any commanding officer to enforce the regulations aboard ship. If "Sea Officer" thinks that a composite uniform is a blow to discipline, and cannot conceive of avoiding such disgrace by stringent orders, he should advocate a snug uniform, made all in one piece; something in the convict style.

Simplicity, while desirable, should not be pushed too far. We now have a neat, and in most respects a serviceable, uniform, and uniting quite well the opposing advantages of richness and simplicity. It is generally acceptable to officers, and it is in the belief that the prevailing opinion in the Service, is, to "let well enough alone," that I have written this dissent to the suggestions of "some sea-going officers."

NORFOLK.

WRECK OF THE HURON.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: Referring to your article of Dec. 1, "The Lesson of the Huron Disaster," and to what a commander of the Navy says in reply, and to your remarks upon the same in your last issue, permit me to offer some comments. As to the actual condition of the *Huron*, the Secretary says in his report to Congress that she was in good condition, well manned, and with her machinery in perfect order; she could have encountered the storm without harm if she had kept the open sea. The Secretary refers to the court of inquiry, and promises to make the result the subject of a special communication to Congress. This, as well as other evidence, goes to show that the grounding was not from defects of the ship herself, and so we must conclude that an error of judgment on the part of her navigator, or of some person or persons who were expected to carry out their orders, was the cause of her loss and the loss of so many lives. You say that none of the precautions of a careful "officer seem to have been taken." This is assuming too much. Orders had been given to keep a sharp lookout for Bodie's Island Light, and "Commander" says the ship was stopped every hour to sound, and that other soundings were taken immediately. As to the course given, if it was by compass—S. by E. ½ E.—that gives us no information upon which to found criticism, as we know nothing as to the errors of the compass on that course from local attraction, and if that was the course to be made good, it would generally be considered right if made good. But it is probable that the effect of the sea or the current was such as to cause considerable leeway, especially while stopped to sound. This would not generally be considered good seamanship; the hand lead should have been kept going. It is not probable that the *Huron* was going over six or seven

knots, and at this speed a fair leadman could get good soundings up and down, at ten or twelve fathoms, with a common hand lead.

As to ordering the guns thrown over, if the ship was heeled to port, or towards the surf, as is stated, the order to get rid of them was right. That there is a want of seamanship among the accomplished naval men recently graduated at Annapolis no one doubts; but it does not necessarily follow that because they are well educated in the theory of navigation and seamanship, they cannot become accomplished seamen by practice. I remember an instance of a want of seamanship in a young officer attached to the gunboat *Huron*, rigged as a schooner, who on being ordered to make sail, took the trumpet, sent men aloft and gave orders just as if he was loosing and setting square sails! This caused the old salts to hitch up their waistbands and look queer.

On another occasion, a boat having been ordered to land me at Nantucket one foggy morning from the *Guerriere*, the two young officers in charge shoved off and pulled in the direction of Hyannis until I suggested that Nantucket lay directly opposite. They had seen the light on the starboard beam the evening previous, but had not found out that the ship's head had swung round from East to West by a change of wind. As to the absence of aid from the life-saving stations, that was the simple result of the rule not to man them before December. The appropriation had not been "cut down" for the sake of economy; the Service being comparatively new, no means had been provided for earlier manning the stations as now proposed to be done. It will be well to await the result of the court of inquiry before condemning any one officer as reckless or incompetent as a seaman; but it is quite clear that the course was ill directed. One officer of the Navy suggested to me that it was fortunate for Ryan's reputation that he did not survive; another, one of the old school, says, "the course she steered—S. by E. ½ E.—was almost certain to carry her on shore. The whole cause of the disaster rests upon the blunder of running along shore in a gale on shore and thick weather." Another, not educated at Annapolis, says: "I have no recollection of a man-of-war previous to the *Huron*, running on to a straight beach having seen a light three and a half hours before, and the captain turned in." In reading over your remarks in reply to "Commander," I notice some speculations as to the want of forethought in not trying earlier to get a smaller line on shore by means of the balsa, and also some others as to the course steered. It was not easy during such a scene to select, perhaps from submerged stores, a rope of just the right kind; and if one could have been got on shore it is very doubtful if a hawser could have been got to the hands of men on the beach and utilized in saving lives. As to the "magnetic line of no variation," there is no such thing in an iron vessel as a rule; it is true that in ships having errors from local attraction they are generally smaller, heading nearly North or South, than on other courses; terrestrial magnetism and local attraction do not belong to the same family, and until we have evidence that the error due to local attraction was known to the officer who gave the course, we must suspend criticism upon the course pursued. All we know positively is that undue or insufficient allowance was made for possible errors of the compass or for the effect of a beam sea, or a current on the port bow.

No seaman, knowing any thing of iron ships, and of our coast between Cape Henry and Hatteras, can account for the loss of the *Huron*, save by attributing it to a grave error of judgment on the part of those controlling her course. Awaiting the publication of the result of the court of inquiry, I remain, very truly yours,

R. B. FORBES.

MILTON, Dec. 16, 1877.

[This will be found elsewhere in this number of the JOURNAL.—EDITOR.]

DEFENCE OF THE CHAPLAINS.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR: I am delighted to hear somebody at last speak out for the Army chaplains. They are men whose great fault is holding their peace against the snarlings of whiffets.

"Justice," I think, forgets to say what was the result of his sole commanding officer's supporting the chaplain. Was not the result that he, the C. O., was the only officer at the post who did?

My experience has been that if the "Old Man" supports the chaplain, it becomes the best reason in the world for the juniors to swear that they will not be led by the nose in religious matters.

Some fear that it would be translated into currying favor with the higher powers. The presence of an extra non-company officer at a post adds police duties to our already overloaded small garrisons; frequently the question of quarters has been affected by it. These causes have strongly tended to make the office disliked, though the incumbent might be popular.

Of course, some there have been of chaplains not very ornamental to their cloth, but I suspect that these Army officers who bear testimony against the order have their judgments founded on a very slim basis of experience. There appears to the writer to be a very bad state of feeling in the Army generally towards religion. There are such phrases to be heard as "psalm-singing soldiers," etc. I have heard those in high authority accused of using such phrases. Now, for the life of me, I can't see how praising one's Maker is going to hurt the soldier in him. I would as soon consider that a breach of the fifth commandment would be a necessary preliminary step to constitute a good soldier.

I am far from accusing my cloth of being greater infidels than the average of men, but we do appear to have a great fear to let out the little good that may be

in us. If we do, we are mean enough generally to take all the credit to ourselves, not giving the glory to Another.

To my friends, and I have many esteemed ones of them, who have lost a knowledge of the value of the common intensive adjective, and who only can emphasize to their satisfaction by using triple *des*, I have this proposition to make: try and ally yourself to your God, seeking the holy counsel of the post chaplain, and break off from everything that would dishonor His name that you profess, and if you gain the victory you'll be satisfied that religion and religious men are not weak, and that they are a very cheap target to tilt at by army non-conforming reformers.

RONREVOG.

THE EGYPTIAN STAFF.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR: In your issue of Nov. 24 is an article in which you take a very proper view of the Egyptian service, and the American officers connected therewith, either in the past or the present, and refuse to condemn Gen. Stone on ex-parte evidence. No one better than myself knows the difficulties Gen. Stone and the other American officers labor under. In selecting officers from America to train the Egyptian army, great mistakes were made. I know of one American officer, who, having been advanced six months' pay prior to his being ordered to Central Africa, deserted the service, and the amount so advanced to him was made up to the Egyptian government by the American officers then in the service. I know of another American officer who held a high rank in the Egyptian service, whose wife now wears diamond earrings and other jewelry, purchased from merchants in Cairo, and whom he promised to pay, but is still indebted to for the same. I know of another American officer, the son of a high official in the U. S. Service, who "resigned," and who was drunk from the time he reported for duty to Gen. Stone until he "resigned."

Such officers were no credit to the country from whence they came, nor to the service which they entered, and General Stone would, in my opinion, be derelict to his duty were he to retain them in the service of the Viceroy of Egypt. It is unnecessary for me to defend Gen. Stone's reputation. It is too well known to the officers of the U. S. Army. I know that Gen. Stone never treated any of the American officers—myself included—who wished to do their duty, otherwise than with the greatest courtesy, kindness, and consideration, and no officer of the American Staff will say otherwise if he speak the truth and give the facts.

EX EGYPTIAN STAFF OFFICER.

FORT CRAIG, N. M., Dec. 3, 1877.

A YEOMAN'S VIEWS.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR: Please ask the Board now in session to make certain changes in the uniform of the Navy (if there be such a board), if not, the Hon. Secretary of the Navy, if some neat and appropriate device can not be given to the uniform of the appointed petty officers of the Navy, to distinguish them from ward-room boys, servants and flunkies generally. It is well known that the yeomen, apothecaries and masters at arms in the Service are, as a class, deserving men, and a great number of them remain in the Service continuously, but under existing regulation they have not the same benefits as the landman who re-enlists. They hold an anomalous position, they are not enlisted men nor are they officers; although they have a great deal of responsibility, and are well paid, they have no status whatever. If they were to be permanently retained in the Service (during good behavior), and not discharged at the end of a cruise, it would be better for the Government and cheaper. Impecunious and often incompetent relatives would not be chosen for the positions of ship's engineers, and pay yeomen and drunken machinists would be the exception not the rule, as at present.

NEW YORK, Dec. 6, 1877.

TESTIMONIAL TO THOMAS NAST.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR: The Army feel that Mr. Thomas Nast, of *Harper's Weekly*, has, by his vivid caricatures in said paper, exhibited to the country how the Army has been and is being treated. Such action on his part he is entitled to the appreciation of all officers and soldiers. It is proper to express our thankfulness and efforts in our behalf, by opening to all of the Army cents for each individual. The money so sent to Col. Church, of the ARMY AND NAVY, as treasurer of said suitable testimonial to Mr. Thos. Nast.

We heartily sympathize with the subscription, and in any way we can. Mr. Nast, showing in a popular and just manner the military establishment support to which it is due. We will take us with pleasure, and greatly hasten and amount required to pi

th the purpose of this ad to forward it in any one yeoman's service for in *Harper's Weekly*, injustice and the criminal sought to destroy our ving it of the pecuniary l by law as well as in f subscriptions sent to ggest that a consolida- different posts would ie collection of the itable testimonial.—

"CAVALRY."

ED. ARMY AND NAVY J

THE RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN OF 1877.

MR. ARCHIBALD FORBES, special correspondent for the London *Daily News*, in a late lecture, at the Royal United Service Institution, has given the most masterly summary of the Russian war that has yet been penned. He says: Mobilisation was nominally complete some time before the declaration of war. There was the full quota of field batteries, siege cannon abounded, and the ambulances were thoroughly complete in every respect; but the number of fighting men was insufficient. It is said that the Grand Duke Nicholas demanded an army of 500,000 men. General Milutine, the Minister of War, told him that this was impossible, but pledged himself to place in line a thoroughly equipped and serviceable force of 250,000 men. He probably deemed this force sufficient, for Fadaieff, in his "Opinions on the Eastern Question," estimated that if 150,000 Russians were to make their way to Constantinople, 250,000 must cross the Danube. When war was declared it seemed as if the Minister of War had more than fulfilled his promise. Thus the grand total of the force at the disposal of the Grand Duke Nicholas was on paper 340,000 men, or, deducting one corps which it might have been necessary to detain in the Odessa district, about 300,000 men. Allowing for 50,000 men to be deducted as representing casualties during the march to the Danube and the passage of that river, as well as troops required to guard the communications, and there remain 250,000 men, or the precise number deemed by Fadaieff indispensable. Unfortunately for the Russians, the difference between the paper and the real strength, great in all armies, was enormous in the army destined for the invasion of Bulgaria. The paper strength in infantry of a Russian corps d'armées is about 32,000 men. However, even Russian testimony only puts the marching-out strength at about 28,000 men. This Mr. Forbes considers greatly exaggerated. He believes that fewer than 170,000 Russians crossed the Pruth in April, May, and June, and is convinced that there were never 145,000 Russian soldiers under arms in Bulgaria at one time, until, about the third week in August, reinforcements began to set in. The extraordinary discrepancy between the paper and the real strength of the Russian army, Mr. Forbes believes to have been caused by the fact that until the eleventh hour Russia did not believe that war would be declared. He, however, adds significantly, "But, in truth, I question if a Russian force was ever in reality up to its paper strength."

What the plan of the campaign was no one outside the small number of Russian general officers entrusted with the secret ever knows for certain. Mr. Forbes, however, believes that he is acquainted with the chief features of it. The following is the outline: An army under General Zimmermann, having the Galatz-Ibraila railway as its base, was to cross the Lower Danube and march through the Dobrudja. By occupying Kustendje it was to prevent the landing of a Turkish force at that part, which force, marching to Tchernavoda, would be within striking distance of the line of Russian communications between Ibraila and Busco. Zimmermann's army, then marching onward, would attack, or at all events threaten, the Varna-Shumla railway. It might also mask Shumla or besiege Varna, or do both. It was likewise contemplated that it might besiege Silistria, and, by threatening the flank and rear of a Turkish army in the Quadrilateral, prevent it from moving against the line of communication of the main Russian army. As for the latter, we gather that Mr. Forbes rather assumed the plan to be what he considered the obvious course than spoke from any positive knowledge of the intentions of the Russian Staff. The straightest route to Constantinople lay along the sea coast, and could not be used by the Russians on account of their naval inferiority. Fortunately for the Russians, the railway furnished in Little Wallachia an intermediate base practically as near to the Russian frontier as had been Ibraila and Hirsova in 1828. Clearly the army of the Dobrudja would only play a secondary part. Through the Shipka Pass must move the main army. Once across the Balkans, the invaders would, on the march to Adrianople, pass through a friendly, fertile country, with neither passes nor fortresses to check their progress. To cover this movement Rustchuk might be masked, Nikopol, with its old tumble-down fortifications, might be taken by a *coup de main*, while a force might be detailed to deal with any Turkish field army which might attempt to issue forth from the Quadrilateral. The troops employed in the capture of Nikopol might afterwards guard the right flank against any danger from Osman Pasha's army at Widdin. The next thing to be done was to fix on a point for crossing the Danube which should at once give a minimum of risk to the communications from the Balkans to that river and afford the nearest, best, and most numerous roads to the Shipka Pass. Evidently that point lay between the mouths of the Vid and the Jantra, and every consideration pointed to Simniza. As to the distribution of the various corps d'armées, employing one of the corps of the Odessa army, the total number would be eight corps. Of these it was determined to employ two for the invasion of the Dobrudja, and two to mask Rustchuk and ward off any attempt of the Turkish force in the Quadrilateral to cut the main line of communication. Another corps was required to capture Nikopol and guard the right flank. The balance amounted to three corps, or about 100,000 men, exclusive of the Cossack Division, the brigade of rifles, and the Bulgarian legions. This plan was good, and promised success, only it was founded upon false data. By the time the Russians reached the Danube the staff ought to have known that their corps d'armées were far from being up to the fixed war establishment. Mr. Forbes believes they were ignorant of the extent of the deficiency. If such was not the case they were clearly blamable for attempting to carry out a plan which was too big for the force at their disposal.

With regard to the operations and arrangements of the Russians previous to the passage of the Danube, Mr. Forbes speaks in terms of temperate praise. He says: "Their marching, camping, and provisioning dispositions were efficient enough. They feinted with sufficient ingenuity at Salonica, opposite Hirsova, at Oltenitza, about Giurgevo, and at Nikopol. They assiduously kept away from showing themselves at the point at which, at the final council of war at Ploesti, it was decided to essay the crossing. They lent the Roumanians siege guns wherewith to keep Osman Pasha in play behind his Widdin ramparts. But time was all important to them, and yet they seemed to waste time strangely." The Danube was, it is true, exceptionally full, but Mr. Forbes maintains, from personal observation, that it might have been crossed several weeks earlier than the date on which the passage was made. As Mr. Forbes says, the delay in the operation is inconceivable, for every hour diminished the backwardness of Turkish preparations and reduced the time available for satisfactory campaigning. Owing to the lateness of the spring and the wetness of the early summer, it is true the marching of troops and the conveyance of supplies were retarded, but as compensation there was the railway. He attributes the delay to two causes—one was that though the four corps constituting the first line were comparatively ready to march, and did actually march, immediately after the declaration of war, the three corps composing the second line were far from complete in every respect, and some time elapsed before they could be brought up. Another cause was the breadth of the river at the point fixed upon—without adequate reason, Mr. Forbes thinks—for the passage of Zimmermann's force. Till the latter had established itself in the Dobrudja, the main army was not allowed to move. As to Zimmermann, Mr. Forbes describes him as a capable officer, but says he has never had 40,000 men at his disposal, has never had reasonable discretionary powers, and his supply service has always been subsidiary. Consequently, he has been perfectly useless.

The passage of the Danube at Simniza on the 27th of June was, as we know, successful, but not, in Mr. Forbes's opinion, skillfully effected. A whole army corps was exposed for hours on the flats bordering the left bank of the river, exposed to the fire of the Turkish artillery. All the boats made for one point, no diversion being attempted. The Turkish force was only a brigade of infantry and a couple of batteries; but, though few in numbers, they made so stout a resistance that the killed and wounded of the Russians amounted to nearly 1,000 men. The crossing effected, the Russians seemed paralysed by their very success. Instead of adopting the natural course of hurrying cavalry across the river and feeling for the enemy, scarcely any horsemen were brought across for several days. Even after the bridge was practicable, which was not for three days, a delay occurred in bringing a large force of cavalry over to the right bank. When cavalry were at length sent out, they went, not to gain information, but "as the heads of columns marching for a given object on a predetermined scheme of action." On the 27th of June the first Russian troops crossed the river, and on the 30th the bridge was completed; yet, though Biela is only five hours' easy ride from Sistova, it was not till the 5th of July that Arnold's Dragoons crossed the Jantra and took up a position on the heights above the town. Tirnova is ten hours' easy ride from Sistova, yet not till the evening of the 6th of July were Gourko's horsemen within striking distance of the former place.

Mr. Forbes marched with the so-called Army of Rustchuk, and his personal experiences prove conclusively how much even of the elements of the art of war the Russians have to learn. Starting from Sistova at sundown on the 4th July, he found a division about ten miles distant encamped. The camp he entered without being challenged. He did not even see any guard or sentry posted, either at the entrance to or exit from it. "Some Russian divisions maintained a cordon of sentries at a distance of from one to three hundred yards, the object of which is not very apparent. It is too close to prevent surprise; too close, also, to prevent spies from doing their work. In fact, watch and ward can scarcely be said to be practised at all by the Russian armies. . . . I have never known a watchword given out or demanded except in the immediate vicinity of the Emperor's headquarters. I have crossed the Simniza bridge in the dead of night without being challenged; without, indeed, even seeing a sentry." At the Emperor's headquarters there is a little, but only a little, more watchfulness, sentries being placed on the side nearest the enemy; but on leaving one night a village occupied by the Emperor, Mr. Forbes passed out without being challenged, the one sentry whom he saw being fast asleep. Continuing his ride on the 4th of July, Mr. Forbes accompanied a string of carts without escort, and at midnight entered, without being challenged, a Cossack bivouac. There was not a single guard, picket, or patrol, and between the Cossacks and the enemy there was but one squadron a few hundred yards to the front. All this was frankly admitted by the colonel. The next day he accompanied a dragoon regiment in its march on Biela. The enemy were in the neighborhood, but there were neither flankers, patrols, nor scouts, simply an ordinary advanced guard.

Fortunately for the Russians the Turks had no enterprise. For several days the two corps constituting the Rustchuk army remained, in obedience to peremptory orders from headquarters, behind the Jantra. On the 17th of July the Czarewitch's force, some 40,000 infantry strong, was allowed to pass the river and advanced on Rustchuk "till its foreposts, cavalry, infantry, and artillery, all huddled together, touched the L.-m." The disposition of the troops was bad, and no cavalry reconnaissances deserving the name were made. It seems incredible, yet it was loudly asserted, that the

commander of the army thus situated talked openly of capturing Rustchuk by a *coup de main*. Mr. Forbes says that he has seen on the Czarewitch's map the investing lines marked out in blue pencil. The new position was to have been taken up on the 26th of July, but on that day came from headquarters the order "Stand fast." It is a significant fact that only a day or two previously the Governor of Rustchuk had been changed. Mr. Forbes has no doubt that the man he replaced was a traitor who had been bribed by the Russians. Of Gourko's dash through the Shipka Pass, Mr. Forbes says that the fact that that officer, "with barely a brigade of horsemen and a mere handful of riflemen, succeeded in getting so near Adrianople as Karabunar is the strongest testimony at once to his soldierhood and the comparative ease with which a Russian army might easily have reached Adrianople, if only moderate support had been accorded to the daring leader of the Guard Cavalry. . . . But the Russian general staff were incapable of rising to a sense of the wisdom of playing a bold game for a big stake."

Krudener had been employed in making demonstrations on the left bank of the river opposite Nikopol; he had, therefore, some distance to march before he could reach that place. When he did arrive, he economised time by "exchanging men's lives for minutes." Osman Pasha was marching on Nikopol, and after the capture Krudener had only about 15,000 men under his command, the whole of his division not being up. His first care was to put the place into a state of defence; he had also 5,000 prisoners to guard. In these circumstances he had but a small force disposable for the occupation of Plevna. He saw, however, the importance of that position and sent some cavalry. Osman Pasha also appreciated the importance of Plevna, and, finding himself too late to prevent the fall of Nikopol, turned aside to Plevna and drove out the Russian horsemen holding it. Krudener then sent a detachment to occupy it, and as a support Schilder-Schuldener's brigade. This force was, through the incapacity of the latter officer, almost annihilated. The Russian staff then resolved that it was essential at any cost to drive out Osman Pasha, and sent a force against him which, if the regiment had been up to the establishment, would, even allowing for Krudener's losses at Nikopol, have numbered 65,000 men. As a fact, it did not exceed 30,000 fighting men. Krudener knew that the task was hopeless, and remonstrated, but his orders were peremptory. Schachoffskoy was directed to co-operate with him; but he began the attack before Krudener was ready, and, as we know, failed miserably. Nothing, indeed, but Krudener's keeping his men in hand averted ruinous consequences. There was no peculiarity in the mode of attack, which was made in company columns, the rifle company in first, the other three companies in second line. The rifle companies never extended, and soon became mixed up with their supports. The entire force soon degenerated into a valiant mob, each man doing what seemed best in his own eyes. On this subject Mr. Forbes remarks, "How can you expect firm discipline from year-old peasant soldiers, whose non-commissioned officers have little, if any, greater training than themselves, and with a field average of three and a half officers per company of 200 men?" From this disaster Mr. Forbes thinks a moral is to be drawn deserving of earnest attention. He observes: "For better or worse, we have now an army of boys. . . . It behoves us, if we would escape disaster in the hour of trial, to take such means as will induce our non-commissioned officers to remain under the colors and not go forth into civil or quasi-civil life, and yet more incumbent on us is it to listen to no argument founded on theory that would reduce the number of our commissioned officers."

As Mr. Forbes says, after the July battle of Plevna the Russians have had no choice but to desist from the active prosecution of the war until the strength of Osman Pasha shall have been broken, for if they had advanced they were liable to be severed from their base by either him or Mehemet Ali. No considerable reinforcements were at hand, and Mr. Forbes thinks that had the Turks taken the offensive—had Suleiman Pasha, instead of knocking his head against the Shipka Pass, carried his army through the Kasan and Demir Kapas defiles to join Mehemet Ali—the Russians must at least have concentrated round Sistova. The costly defence of the Shipka Pass may, Mr. Forbes thinks, eventually prove to have been worth the expenditure of life. On the 11th of September the Russians, after a five days' intermittent cannonade, assaulted Plevna once more; but, though they had then 75,000 men, Osman Pasha had profited by six weeks' leisure to increase his defences, and, as we know, the attack virtually failed. Mr. Forbes shrinks from prophecy, but thinks that if Plevna falls before Christmas and if the winter is a hard one, there is no serious obstacle to prevent the Russians from crossing the Balkans immediately afterwards by the Shipka Pass.

A Moscow source supplies the following figures respecting Russian losses and trophies taken by the Russian army: The losses amounted, up to the middle of November, to 67,393 men, of whom fourteen were generals, one Imperial prince, four princes of the House of Rurik, one Persian Prince, six Russian princes, twelve Grusinian princes, sixty counts, and twenty-one barons. The number of Turks taken prisoners comprises 44,000 men, among whom are sixteen pachas, nearly 500 officers, besides 701 guns; of trophies, 200 colors, two monitors, and four steamers. The booty captured in the shape of munition and provision stores has a value of 14,000,000 roubles (£2,275,000). The respective numbers of prisoners taken were: At Ardahan, 7,000; B. gli-Ahmed, 300; Sidekan, 500; Yagni, 300; Bayezid, 300; Aladja Dagh, 7,000; Kars, 12,000; Deve Boyun, 3,500; Azize, 500; Nicopolis, 7,800; in the fights in the Balkans, 500; and at Telish, 3,500 men.

THE NATIONAL GUARD.

NEVADA BADGE CONTEST.—The following is the report of rifle practice of Capt. H. H. Herron, Co. A, 48th regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., at Oswego, N. Y., on the sixth day of September, 1877, for the Nevada Badge:

Names.	200 yards.	300 yards.	Tot.
First Sergt. E. J. Bell	4 4 4 4-30	5 4 5 5-24	44
Private Geo. White	4 4 4 4-21	5 4 5 5-23	44
Lieut. J. L. Barton	4 4 4 4-21	5 4 5 5-23	44
Private R. G. Post	4 4 4 4-22	5 4 5 5-23	44
Private C. N. Con	4 4 4 4-21	5 4 4 5-23	43
Sergt. C. A. Barton	4 4 4 4-20	4 4 4 5-22	43
Private A. C. C. C.	4 4 4 4-20	5 3 5 4-22	42
Private J. P. Hall	4 4 4 4-20	4 5 5 4-21	41
Second Private T. Donovan	4 4 3 3-16	5 4 5 4-23	39
Private E. M. Coo	4 4 3 3-20	5 3 5 4-19	39
Corp. L. Miller	4 4 3 3-18	5 3 5 2-19	37
Private P. O. Wright	4 4 3 3-19	4 4 3 4-18	37
Private Lewis Woolson	4 4 3 3-20	5 3 5 2-17	37
Private P. T. Perkins	4 4 3 3-20	5 3 4 4-16	36
Private D. C. Hall	4 4 3 3-20	5 3 4 5-16	36
Private J. L. Wood	4 4 3 3-15	4 5 4 5-20	35
Corp. C. A. Clemmings	4 4 3 3-17	5 3 5 5-18	35
Sergt. J. C. Harding	4 4 3 3-18	5 4 4 4-17	35
Private W. A. Johnson	4 4 3 3-20	5 3 5 4-15	35
Private Joseph Lupton	4 4 3 3-14	5 5 4 4-20	34
First Private T. Donovan	4 4 3 3-15	5 0 4 5-19	34
Private Dyer Marshall	5 2 2 3-14	3 4 5 4-19	33
Sergt. L. L. Barnes	4 4 3 3-18	4 3 2 5-14	32
Private A. Harness	4 4 4 4-20	5 0 4 2-12	32
Private J. Nihoff	4 4 3 3-16	5 3 5 2-15	31
Private T. Bartland	4 4 3 3-19	5 3 4 3-13	31
Corp. J. E. Sleight	4 4 3 3-19	5 3 2 3-10	29
Private M. L. Marshall	4 4 3 3-16	5 3 2 2-13	29
Private E. Purple	4 4 3 3-14	4 0 2 5-12	26
Lieut. T. W. Goodell	0 4 3 3-19	0 5 4 3-14	24
Private H. J. Calkins	4 4 5 3-20	0 4 0 0-4	24
Private A. Paine	4 4 0 5-13	2 3 0 2-9	22
Sergt. A. Cavellier	0 2 2 3-11	0 0 0 3-4	7-13
Private E. A. Sweetenham	4 0 3 3-14	0 0 0 2-2	16
Private John McCann	4 0 3 3-10	0 0 2 0-0	12

The undersigned, Capt. H. H. Herron, commanding Co. A, 48th regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., certifies on honor that the above is a correct return of the rifle practice performed by said company on the date above mentioned, in competition for the Nevada Badge, and also certifies upon knowledge that each man shot in his own name, with a separate rifle, and was a member of this company July 3, 1877.

H. H. Herron, Capt. commanding Co. A, 48th regt.
I hereby certify on honor that the above scores were made under my personal supervision, and that the same are correct.

Major and Engineer 31st Brig. Act. Inspector of Rifle Prac.
I hereby certify on honor that the above scores were made under my personal supervision, and that the same are correct.

JAS. MANNING,
Lieut.-Col. and Insp. Rifle Practice 6th Division.
I hereby certify on honor that the above scores were made under my personal supervision, and that the same are correct.

A. CURTIS, Capt. and Insp. Rifle Prac. 48th regt.
The following is the report of the match for the Nevada Badge by Co. I, 7th regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., at Creedmoor October 29, 1877.

Names.	200 yards.	300 yards.	Tot.
Private F. Harper	5 2 3 3-16	5 5 3 3-18	34
Private G. J. Bird	4 4 3 3-19	5 2 3 2-14	33
Private J. D. Condit	4 4 3 3-17	5 2 4 2-14	31
Corporal F. T. Marshall	4 4 3 3-18	4 3 3 0-12	31
Private S. A. Lashrop	3 3 4 4-14	4 2 3 3-15	29
Private E. R. Young	0 4 3 3-14	3 5 2 3-15	29
First Sergt. D. Canney, Jr.	4 4 3 3-18	5 2 3 0-13	29
Private J. S. Klons	4 4 2 3-16	5 3 0 3-11	27
Corporal E. E. Sage	4 4 3 3-18	5 0 2 0-9	27
Private S. J. Gorman	4 4 3 3-18	0 3 2 0-4	27
Private W. M. Bangs	4 4 3 3-19	0 4 2 0-8	27
Sergeant G. W. Chancy	4 4 3 3-18	5 0 3 0-12	27
Private W. F. Engle	3 3 4 3-14	3 2 2 3-12	26
Private F. S. Bangs	4 4 3 3-16	4 0 2 0-10	26
Private T. P. Tyle	0 2 5 0-10	3 5 3 2-15	25
Private E. W. Caudoo	3 3 3 3-15	3 3 0 3-10	25
Lieut. W. G. Dominick	2 4 3 4-17	0 3 2 0-8	25
Private G. H. Gould	4 4 3 3-17	0 4 0 0-3	24
Private J. C. Ogden, Jr.	4 4 3 3-18	0 4 0 0-2	24
Private G. W. Wall	3 3 3 3-11	3 0 0 5-12	23
Sergt. J. W. Kibret	3 3 4 3-15	0 3 0 3-8	23
Corporal J. L. Carr	2 3 4 0-13	5 3 0 0-10	23
Corporal N. N. Vail	0 0 2 4-8	3 4 4 0-14	22
Private C. P. Sheldon	3 0 3 3-10	4 3 0 0-12	22
Private J. Williams	2 3 3 3-15	0 5 0 0-2	22
Private G. W. Lewis	5 4 2 0-15	0 4 2 0-6	21
Private W. W. Falconer	5 3 3 4-19	0 2 0 0-3	21
Sergt. S. C. Martino	5 2 2 3-14	0 2 0 0-6	20
Private J. T. Harper	3 3 3 3-15	2 0 0 0-0	20
Private F. C. Thomas	2 3 0 4-12	0 0 0 3-6	18
Private L. H. Berriau	3 2 4 4-17	0 0 0 0-0	17
Captain W. C. Casey	4 3 2 4-16	0 0 0 0-0	16
Private H. Pell	3 0 4 3-13	0 0 0 0-0	13
Private L. H. Schultz	0 0 0 4-0	3 0 0 0-2	6
Private G. F. Merchant	Score disallowed at both distances.		

I, William C. Casey, commanding Co. I, 7th regiment, 3d Brigade, First Division, N. G. S. N. Y., hereby certify that the men whose scores are recorded on this paper were members of said company on the 3d day of July, 1877, and are now active members of same.

WM. C. CASEY,
Captain commanding Co. I.
I, Charles F. Robbins, Inspector of Rifle Practice, 7th regiment, 3d Brigade, First Division, N. G. S. N. Y., do certify upon honor that I personally attended and supervised the shooting of Co. I, in the match for the Nevada Badge at Creedmoor, Oct. 29, 1877, the scores of which are hereby recorded; that said scores are correct, the points recorded being made by the men opposite whose names they are entered, with separate rifles, of State pattern, and as issued, and with regular ammunition of State issue. And all such men are known to me by above certificate of Captain W. C. Casey, to have been duly enlisted members of said company.

CHAS. F. ROBBINS, Captain and Inspector Rifle Practice,
7th regiment, N. G. S. N. Y.

I, Joseph Holland, Inspector Rifle Practice, 3d Brigade, First Division, N. G. S. N. Y., do certify that I personally attended and supervised the shooting of Co. I, 7th regiment, in the match for the Nevada Badge, Oct. 29, 1877, said company being in the brigade in which I am commissioned, that I have examined the scores, that they are correct as attested to by the regimental I. R. P. in every particular.

JOSEPH HOLLAND,
Major and I. R. P., 3d Brigade, 1st Division, N. G. S. N. Y.
Co. A, 23d New York, entered for the badge but did not shoot, therefore Co. A, of the 48th remains the winner for the year.

FIFTH NEW YORK.—A court-martial is ordered to convene at the armory of this regiment on December 28, at 8 o'clock P. M., for the trial of delinquencies and deficiencies among the non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates of this command. Detail for the court: Capt. Geo. Strippel, president. Drills are ordered to take place at the armory, in fatigue uniform, during the month of January next, viz.: Co. A and K, on Mondays, 8 and 15; C and H, on Tuesdays, 9 and 16; E and G, on Wednesdays, 10 and 17; D and I, on Thursdays, 11 and 18; and F, on Fridays, 12 and 19. The officers and non-commissioned officers are directed to assemble at the armory, in fatigue uniform, for drill and instruction, as follows, viz.: Those of the right wing, Co. A, K, C, B, E, on Monday, January 1; those of the left wing, F, D, G, I, H, on Monday, Jan-

uary 28. The officers, in citizen's dress, will attend theoretical instruction at the armory, on Thursdays, January 17 and 31. Roll-call, on all occasions, to take place promptly at 8 o'clock P. M. Officers and enlisted men, appearing after roll-call, will be reported as absent without leave, and not be permitted to take part in the drill. Col. Spencer is following in the wake of Lieut.-Col. Wilson, of the 12th, and if he insists on a full compliance with the late men paragraph of his order, the discipline in the 5th will be brought up to standard.

Companies E and F were at the regimental armory on December 19; Co. E, two sergeants and eight men; Co. F, four sergeants and thirteen men. The two companies were consolidated, making twelve front, with blanks in rear rank, under command of Capt. Willing, Co. E. The formation was good, sergeant prompt, and men steady. The manual in open ranks was the first instruction, and by the count was performed in fair shape, the instructor being slow and careful in his orders, illustrating each motion with the piece. For half an hour this manual was kept up, the men being most attentive, and showing a marked improvement. At a rest some of the men left the ranks, but were promptly checked by the captain, who explained that "rest" did not mean wander all around the room. At 9 o'clock Capt. Gerner, of Co. F, assumed command, and after a few movements in the manual in closed ranks the marchings were commenced. The march in column of fours was good, although the step was too slow. The on left into line was fair, but the manual of the fours was very ragged. This movement was repeated four times. The marchings company front were only middling, but the changes to column of fours were good. In attempting left front into line from column of fours the men became badly mixed, many losing their places, and some time was wasted in reforming the column. This movement was repeated several times, and although the instructor was very explicit, the men did not seem to thoroughly understand the movement. The march to the rear was well done; but in the fours right or left about the men would straggle and lose their numbers. The movements were repeated over and over again, the instructors making quality and not quantity their aim. In this they were successful, for the men paid attention, and were remarkably steady. The drill was a good one; but some effort ought to be made to procure a larger attendance at these company drills. Twenty-seven out of the minimum strength, 92, required by the Military Code, is a very poor showing at a division drill.

The officers, band and drum corps of this regiment serenaded Capt. Henry Gimpel, the lieutenant-colonel elect, at his residence, Brooklyn, on December 14.

EIGHTH NEW YORK.—Promptly at 8 o'clock on Monday evening, Dec. 17, Co. F and H, Captains McLean and Losee, were marched into the large drill room. Lieut. Giller acted as adjutant and formed the division. The captain of the first company was wrong in supporting arms before the captain on his left gave the command front, the adjutant also forgot to carry arms before commanding the present. After the division was turned over to Major Young, he, without returning the salute of the adjutant or drawing his sword, ordered the captains to move off the ground and reform, leaving the adjutant standing at a present arms. If the formation was not correct he should have notified the adjutant to reform the command. The second formation was very good. The instructor commenced with the manual of arms. At first the execution was bad; but improved on repetition. Opening and closing ranks, dressing, etc., were very fair, the major instructing the left guide and file closer of the battalion to invert their pieces. At four right and four left, distances were well preserved and blers well covered. Side step to the left poorly done, causing a dress after the command halt had been given. On right into line, markers were properly posted. The captain of the first company was wrong in repeating the command march, he also failed to halt his first four three yards from the alignment, marching to within less than one yard from the marker, and not giving the command right dress until all his fours had halted. He also failed to support arms after the captain of the second company had commanded front. The captain of the left company halted at the proper distance, and dressed his company promptly. This movement was repeated several times, and although the instructor was very explicit in correcting mistakes, the captain of the first company continued to repeat the major's command of march.

The principal fault in the dressing was in the captains failing to dress the left of their companies up to the guides. When this is not done, a ragged alignment is the consequence. On left into line showed a marked improvement. Forming single rank in column of fours from a halt and on the march were well done, although the carry arms when coming to a halt was in very poor time. Right of companies to the rear, and wheeling into line were repeated several times, and from the pointed instructions given, the officer must be very stupid to repeat the errors.

Captains dismiss your companies, was given at 10 o'clock. For a first drill the new major evinced a fair knowledge of the book, was very cool, and gave his instructions in a pleasant tone. In the manual he was very explicit in the details.

A great improvement was noticed in the general appearance of the men, their equipments and dress being in good condition. One or two men in black trousers were, however, noticed, and three men without cross belts. We would again suggest an inspection before commencing the next drill, and the throwing out of all men not properly uniformed, in justice to those who are.

ELEVENTH NEW YORK.—Drills by division under the direction of the field officers have taken the place of the regular company drills in this regiment. It is generally supposed that when the school of the battalion is commenced the several companies are fairly proficient in company movements. It was therefore expected that a good drill would be shown by the three companies ordered for duty at the armory on Monday, December 17. At 8 o'clock the company formations were commenced, B, C and K being present. The utter lack of discipline in the men, and want of knowledge in the sergeants, at this opening exercise of the evening, fully prepared us for the demoralization which followed. Three times the sergeant of Co. K ordered "fall in," ere the men paid the slightest attention, and when they did form line, some were faced to the right, some to the front, while more were oblique, and all laughing and talking. In the other companies there was a slight improvement. Yet talking, laughing and crowding were freely indulged in. At roll-call the pieces were at the order, carry, and support; but the sergeants did not seem to worry, nor to even care whether the men answered or no. It took over twenty minutes to form the companies, they presenting the following fronts: Co. B, three sergeants, five files; Co. C, three sergeants, eight files; Co. K, four sergeants, seven files—a total of fifty non-commissioned officers and men. By mutual agreement the companies were then consolidated into two commands, the captains of B and K acting as instructors. Twelve files with skeleton rear ranks was the formation, and in turning over the companies the first sergeant's remained on the right of the front rank, instead of going to the front and centre. During this reformation the actions of the men were disgraceful; constant

laughing, talking and changing of places going on, without the slightest check from officers or sergeants. The manual was then executed by company, not a single movement being according to the tactics. The pieces were moved in all times, and in all shapes, without a fault being found by the instructors. The column of fours were then formed and a march commenced, showing if anything a worse state of affairs than at the formation. The men had changed places so often, in order that friends might be side by side, that the numbers were forgotten, and the fun had in their efforts to form the column of fours was indescribable. When wheeled into company front, the fours were again mixed, for each man insisted on being in the front rank. The captains finally by pushing and hauling—officers and men all talking at once in German—formed line, and several marches in company fronts were executed. At a quarter to 9 o'clock the companies were broken into squads, and given in charge of the sergeants to instruct in the manual. This was certainly the blind leading the blind, for as the sergeants in most cases knew less than the men, the instruction received may be imagined. The officers in the meanwhile formed a knot in one corner and were having a good time. One specimen of this manual instruction may serve for the whole. "Reverse arms" was ordered by the sergeant. It was a puzzle for the men, the pieces being brought to every conceivable position. The sergeant endeavored to explain, only to become more mixed than even the men, much to their amusement. Nine times was this order given, and at the ninth the men knew as little as they did at the first. Lieut.-Col. Kraeger, who was in citizen's dress, then undertook to instruct this sergeant, with only moderate success; and when he (the sergeant) repeated the movement before the company, at each motion he turned to the colonel and asked if he was right. In another squad further amusement was caused by an execution of the order arms, and the butts of the pieces were hammered on the floor, while the men laughed aloud in their enjoyment. We did not see the immediate cause of the merriment, but its spread was instantaneous, the other three squads joining in the lark. There was fully twenty minutes wasted in this manual when the companies were again formed, and marched around the room. After a halt, the captain of one company ordered "right face," the men deliberately facing right and left, and enjoying the captain's annoyance. The other company received at company front, "arms port." They seemingly had never before heard the command, and thought the captain was joining in their sport. No efforts were made to set the men straight. At 9:15 o'clock Lieut.-Col. Kraeger, in uniform, assumed command of both companies for battalion drill. He first ordered "rear open order," the guides failing to move, and gave the "march" before the basis of the rear rank was established. The manual here was a slight improvement on previous efforts, while the men for the first time during the evening were steady and quiet. A march in column of fours followed, distances and step being of the poorest description, and from this column of fours "left front into line" was ordered. This is a very simple movement for even a regiment; but the rear company of the division through the fault of its captain became beautifully mixed, and ended in executing "companies left front into line." After again marching in column of fours, a wheel into line by fours left was ordered, the captains failing to dress their commands at the close of the movement. Even when directed to dress, they failed to execute the order promptly. During the marches company front the guides had no particular knowledge of their duties, nor were they instructed by the colonel until the Inspector of Rifle Practice, who was present as a spectator, called his attention to their deficiencies. After a short drill, simply in marching, column of fours, and company front, the companies were again turned over to the captains. They were to all appearances afraid to execute any movements in presence of the lieutenant-colonel, and quickly delegated their duties to the sergeants, and the men were dismissed. As a whole, it was the worst exhibition of the school of the company and battalion it has been our lot to witness, and if the regiment expects to exist, the colonel should at once order every non-commissioned officer in the command before a competent examining board, while Brig.-Gen. Vilmar should take the officers to task for the utter lack of all knowledge of their duties. The men are inclined to learn, as shown while under the instruction of Colonel Kraeger; but when commanded by their own officers or sergeants they at once recognize their total incompetency, and laugh and talk as much as they please. The 11th has had a good reputation; the days when Col. Lux was in command are not forgotten, and all that is needed at present is a complete overhauling of the officers.

TWELFTH NEW YORK.—Twenty-one minutes past eight o'clock, P. M., on Tuesday, Dec. 18, four commands of sixteen files were turned over to Lt.-Col. Wilson, eight minutes having been allowed the first sergeants for company formation, nine were taken up by the adjutant for receiving the reports and equalizing, and four minutes thereafter the line was formed. The formation was fine, the companies marching to their positions without hesitation or disorder. The manual of arms was not good, the motions being slurred, and hands falling very unequally. With all his endeavors, the instructor could not remedy this deficiency until the very last moments of the drill, when in open ranks the manual showed a wonderful improvement, all the motions being carefully and distinctly observed and executed, the whole culminating in an order arms that was exactly as the tactics describe, together and without noise. The usual bang is ignored in this regiment. The march in column of fours showed many unequal distances, the instructor halting and pointing out the defects. In forming line a break occurred in the centre of the third company, and distance was on that account lost between it and the fourth, necessitating a correcting of the alignment. On a second march in column of fours, the same break occurred and in the same company, caused by the right guide not keeping the required twenty-one inches distance, he usually having thirty-two, and at times even more. While the column of fours were at a halt, the adjutant was evidently transmitting some information to the officer commanding the third company, and when the "four left" was given, he darted through the column, thereby obstructing the guide's coming into line. He should have gone around either flank. At the same time distance was lost between the second and third, and the latter and the fourth company, the instructor again cautioning the fours as to the loss. After this the marches in column of fours were perfect; step, distances and the covering of the pivot men could not have been better, the step being one hundred and eight to the minute. The first and fourth companies were especially conspicuous for their firm and solid appearance. The advance in line of battle was very creditably executed, but the "four left about" showed serious crowding of the two left (now right) companies, thereby causing considerable talking and shuffling. From the column of fours the companies were marched to the right (companies column right, guide left), and again breaking into column of fours. Not a single irregularity was noticed. The wheels by company from the halt and on the march were, as a rule, poor, and evinced a lack of instruction in the guides. On right into line from column of fours, the

guide of the leading company obliqued and took his place on the right of the first four before the command of execution was given. The "carry arms" of the several fours on coming to a halt was very poor in the first and second, but somewhat better in the third, and especially good in the fourth company. The same can safely be said in regard to their coming into line. The dress in command and execution was timely and good, only the fourth company halted too far to the rear. Each four ought to march and dress separately on the line. The ployment into double column of companies was spoiled by the commandant of the second company failing to give the proper command, and the third company breaking to the rear, instead of advancing. At the double column of fours the right fours of the second company did evidently not hear the captain's command, for while the left four broke in column to the front, the other fours remained in line, thereby spoiling the whole movement. The commands of this officer were very weak during the whole drill. A repetition of this movement was excellent. The ployments and deployments of the battalion were well done. At close column, however, the file closers of the first division did not diminish their distance to one yard. On the companies wheeling to the right into column, the left guide of the third company was observed to be at carry, while all the other left guides were at right shoulder. At the "right of companies rear into column" the commandant of the third company did not halt on the line of his former front rank. This officer appeared nervous and uneasy during the whole drill, and a great deal of the adjutant's time seemed to be devoted to his welfare. A misunderstood command caused a wrong change of direction, to the left instead of the right, and being executed too late, occasioned much crowding at the wheeling points. On wheeling into line considerable distance was lost by the second company. This trouble was noticed at all the wheels of this company, the left guide describing too large an arc invariably caused a break in the centre of the company. The ranks were opened, and after a drill in the manual the command was dismissed.

On Wednesday, Dec. 19, it was only fifteen minutes after eight o'clock, when the left wing, four commands of sixteen files, was turned over to Lieut.-Col. Wilson. The line formation was not as good as that of the previous evening, the companies not coming into line as regular, and one (the second), not "supporting" until ordered by the adjutant. A march in column of fours evinced poor step, and inequality of distance, especially by the fours of the last company; but the fours left into line was good in dress and alignment. The position of the musket at "right shoulder" gave reason for very timely remarks by the instructor. At the march in column of fours the rear rank men of the second company did not shorten step to obtain the proper distance, and although on repetitions great improvement was observed in this respect, it was not perfect during the evening. The advance in line was very good, but the fours left about was continually marred by men of the second company not wheeling promptly. The march in column of companies and the changes of directions were very good, alignments and distances being carefully observed. The same can safely be said of the backward march, but not of the side step which was irregular. In wheeling by company to the right from line, the centre of the second company broke; the movement was otherwise good, there being no loss of distance nor tidiness in dressing. At a backward march in column the left guide, second company, stepped off with the right foot. The different wheels on the march and into line were well done, as was the double column of fours and deployment of the same. From the very start these movements were executed with precision and their repetitions were certainly not caused by previous incorrectness. A march in column of fours showed some irregularity in the step. On right into line from column of fours was an exceedingly good performance; but the officer commanding the third company, after giving the command "support arms" until after the "front" of the company succeeding him. This error was noticed on several repetitions of the movement. The ployment right in front and deployment on first company were good; but the deployment on fourth company was spoiled by the second (now third) company marching too far to the left, causing a loss of space and of time. The captain also failed to "support," and had to be cautioned to do so. The deployment on the first (original fourth) company was marred by the carelessness of the same company, necessitating a side step of the succeeding company. The support arms was again forgotten in the second company.

A fours left about in line with ensuing "halt" was not plainly understood, causing a break; one part of the line halting, the other advancing. The dress, however, ought to have been made to the right instead of to the left. The double column of fours was not good, but the errors were corrected on repetition, and the deployment of the same by two movements was done admirably. The same may be said of the ployment into close column to and on the left, although, in one instance, the guide of third (original second) company was crowded out of his place by the men dressing too close on and beyond him. Neither the marching nor manual were as good as those of the right wing companies. The excellent regularity attained at the close of Tuesday's drill was not perceptible this evening, nor the step maintained as evenly. But the execution of movements such as ployments and deployments of double and close columns, whether from column of fours or companies, was decidedly better than that of the right wing, the errors of the latter at the beginning of a new movement being omitted by the left wing companies.

TWENTY-SEVENTH NEW YORK.—The resignation of Lieut.-Col. Chas. M. Schieffelin having been accepted November 27 he has been honorably discharged the service. Major Jno. W. Coburn, accompanied by Quartermaster Carville and Capt. A. W. Peck, I. R. P., will make thorough inspections of each company, for the purpose of making out the ordnance report for the year, before the last day of December.

SEVENTY-FIRST NEW YORK.—This regiment is directed to assemble in fatigue uniform at the State Arsenal, for drill and instruction, as follows: Right wing, Cos. H, K, D and B, on January 7 and 30, February 15, March 15; left wing, Cos. I, E, F, C and G, on January 15, February 7, March 4 and 29. Hereafter companies drilling at the armory on the same night are directed to drill by division, each commanding officer acting as instructor alternately on the same or every other evening. Lieut.-Col. Chaddock and Maj. McAlpine are detailed to superintend the drills by divisions, alternately, one being present at least two evenings of each week. A recruit class has been formed, to which all recruits now drilling are ordered to report. Lieut. F. H. Belton, instructor. Capt. R. S. Orser has been detailed as a recruiting officer to form a new company (A). One hour each "headquarter's night" will hereafter be devoted to tactical conversation, when all the various constructions of the tactics will be harmonized, that drills may be uniform and the system the same throughout the entire regiment. The line officers are to report for this purpose, on and after December 21. In pursuance of orders from brigade headquarters, a regimental court-martial will be convened at the armory on Monday, Jan. 7, 1878, at 8 o'clock P. M. Detail for the court: Capt. M. L. Vanuise. The following changes are announced in regimental orders: Commissioned—Capt. Wm. Milne, Jr., Capt. Edwin C. Murfin, First Lieut. G. W. Conover; Second Lieut. R. D. McLintock, Second Lieut. E. W. Rachan.

OLD GUARD, SEVENTY-NINTH HIGHLANDERS.—The grand Scottish concert under the auspices of the Old Guard, 79th Highlanders, Col. Joseph Lang, took place at Steinway Hall on Monday evening, Dec. 17. A large and select audience greeted the artists, and by lavish applause, showed their appreciation of the talent displayed. The programme consisted of organ solos, Scotch songs and recitations.

Miss Thorburn sang "Bonnie Dundee" in a clear, sweet voice, receiving a hearty encore. Mr. J. B. Thomas (New York's old favorite), did justice to the "Laughing Song," while the recitations of "The Dying Soldier" and "Tenebrous House" by Mr. Pope, were particularly fine. Miss Sydney Cowell carried off the honors of the evening by her clever interpretation of "The Caller Herring" in character. The concert was a grand success, and the committee deserves praise for the very efficient manner in which the arrangements were completed. The Old Guard (Highlanders), give their annual invitation ball at Ferrero's Assembly Rooms, on Thursday evening, Dec. 27.

PENNSYLVANIA.—There are several points of general interest in the official report of Maj.-Gen. Huidekoper, commanding 2d Division N. G. P., concerning the labor riots of July last. The general speaks of the manner of assembling and the disposition of the troops under his command. After enumerating the difficulties thrown in the way of prompt transportation and the lack of food and shelter for the men, the general says: I proceeded to Scranton with the 7th regiment, Col. Magee, and reached there after dark, and with 350 men relieved some 1,500. Thrown in this way, in the dark, into a strange city, amidst a population angry and excited by the death of three of their leaders, and further weakened by a detail of over 100 men to guard the Lackawanna store house, I was apprehensive that the rioters might take advantage of my position and make an attack upon my train. Fortunately this was not made, and, strengthened by the arrival of the 15th regiment during the night, I was by noon of the next day in a position as to be secure beyond all danger. Having been warned by the Governor of anticipated trouble in Scranton, and directed by him to furnish such protection as was needed by the good citizens, and especially by those thirty-eight brave men who had met and, after killing the three leaders, had routed a brutal mob of 3,000 miners, I watched with some anxiety the effect of the large Sunday funeral of these men, and the coroner's inquest, held in and among, by and in behalf of these same bold and desperate men. During Monday and Tuesday the inquest continued, and, with no real work for the troops, I held the annual review of the division on Tuesday, August 7. In strength and character the division never appeared better. The spectators packing the streets where the parade was made, and numbering over ten thousand, applauded or jeered, as their sympathies directed, but without causing any collision, for which I was prepared. Another day of quiet passed, with late reports from the coroner's court that days would elapse before a decision could be reached, when suddenly and quietly constables arrived, on Wednesday evening, at 9 o'clock, and made two arrests for wilful murder. Hearing of the trouble, and having my headquarters with the troops, I arrived at the house where the arrests were made with one company of the 7th regiment just as the party was leaving it, and, after some little discussion with the constables, took forcible possession of the two prisoners, and sending for the other thirty-six kept them under guard that night. In the morning I notified the alderman who had issued the warrants of arrest that the gentlemen were subject to his orders, and intimated to him that I would further assist him by furnishing a guard, the whole division if necessary, for the protection of them. His reply not being of a satisfactory nature, the gentlemen were taken to the judge at Wilkesbarre, and such legal steps taken as would relieve them from further arrest on the same charge. My interference with the civil process was, I think, justified by the knowledge that the commitment was intended only as a means of securing the bodies of these gentlemen that the mob might avenge the death of their late comrades, and from statements made since I am sure their lives would have been taken that night. The general further says: With considerable experience during the war of the Rebellion in the care of troops, I do not hesitate to say that my men were called upon during this summer's campaign to undergo inconvenience and discomfort that would not have been exacted of troops in regular service, and the cheerful and faithful manner in which the duty was performed entitles them to have provision made by the State so that in future blankets, haversacks, canteens and ammunition may always be near at hand and available. He further calls attention to the apparent fact that the laws of the State are deficient, so far as the military are concerned, and urge upon you the importance of having the same modified in many respects. One change, he says, I do most urgently recommend is that instead of the present company allowance of \$400 per annum, each man shall be paid fifty cents for each two hours drill every other week, and an allowance of one and a half dollars per day for duty on annual inspection and for duty during riots or invasion. This would not increase the cost to the State, and would insure better attention and greater discipline in the Guard. I would also recommend the establishment of three arsenals in the State; say one at Freeport, on the Allegheny river, one at Northumberland or Wilkesbarre, and one at or near Norristown, to also be the quarters of a company or more of State Regulars, who can at all times of danger be depended on in advance of the National Guard. The experience of the old world, and our own this summer, must convince us that society is always liable to be looked for trouble in the shape of mobs and riots, and that there is necessity in every community of some permanent military organizations, the whole duty of whose members is to protect the public and preserve the peace. The expense of this force would not exceed the cost usually expended by a second class city on its police, and would, I think, be cheerfully borne by the citizens of the commonwealth.

RHODE ISLAND.—Battery A, Marine Corps of Artillery, of Providence, will be inspected by Gen. Dennis on Dec. 27.

On Tuesday, December 18, the Marine Corps of Artillery and Veteran Association met at the armory, on Benefit street, for the purpose of arranging for the reception of the committee from the Hartford City Guards, which is to present both commanders with complimentary resolutions adopted by the Guards in reference to their visit and reception at Providence last summer. The time decided upon was December 27.

An account of the inspection of the Wolf Tone and Mesagher Guards is laid over until next week.

FLORIDA.—Adj.-Gen. J. J. Dickenson is giving new life to the citizen soldiery of this State. Old companies are improving, and new ones being organized. In his honor a cavalry company has been organized at Cotton Plant, Marion county, called the "Dickenson Rifles." This is a deserved compliment to an efficient officer. The Governor's Guards, of Tallahassee, have procured new and handsome uniforms, and are rapidly improving in drill. They propose to win the prize at the approaching Leon County Fair. Monticello is justly proud of her "Jefferson Rifles," and the "Musical Club" recently gave a fine concert for their benefit. The hall was crowded, the enthusiasm spirited, and the entertainment delightful. Miss Rachel Simon, Florida's sweet singer and charming favorite, was the star of the evening, and elicited the most hearty and prolonged applause. The "Rifles" owe much to the zeal and persistent efforts of this popular young lady in their behalf.

GEORGIA.—The colored military companies of Savannah—seven in number—have asked the Governor to be formed into a regiment. Private R. L. Callaway has won the prize plume of the Quiltman Guards, as the best drilled member. Sergeant Holtzclaw, of the Southern Rights Guards, of Perry, won the prize cup as the best drilled soldier at the Houston County Fair. Major Chas. M. Wiley, of Macon, has been elected lieutenant-colonel of the 2d Georgia Battalion, vice Lieut.-Col. W. H. Ross, who recently resigned. The fifth annual prize drill of the Governor's Guards, of Atlanta, came off on the 14th December, and was followed by a delightful "hop." The medal was awarded Orderly Sergeant J. W. White, the plume to Sergt. Eugene Bruckner, and the epaulettes to Private E. G. Roche. Sergeant Bruckner held his place with great skill, and won general applause by his fine soldierly bearing and prompt action, and only lost the first prize by a slight mistake. The judges were Major Henderson and Lieuts. Scrutchin and McCandless.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The editor of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL must decline to decide points between officers and the men of their commands. No attention paid to fictitious signatures, unless accompanied by real name and address of writer.

H. G. N. asks: Does the order of "fours right about" also warrant the command "two's" right about, which is not in the tactics? For instance, the company is marching by two's right in front—1. Is it right to give an order (not in the tactics) "two's right about—march;" and if so, do the four files wheel right about or two's? 2. Can the order "right about" be properly given when the company is in two or four ranks without wheeling fours? or is the order "to the rear—march," right when marching in two or four ranks? I have been accustomed to Hardee's Tactics, and have just begun to look into Upton's, which I discover have no counter-marches and only fours right about—march, and squad or single file to the rear—march. Answer.—Consult par. 54. Its language is explicit. An about is a circular movement by which the front of a squad, set of fours, company, etc., is placed facing to the rear, or changed one hundred and eighty degrees. Under this paragraph you can order "two's right about," or "platoons right about." If the two's are at double rank distance the rear rank closes to facing distance as in the about by fours, and falls back to thirty-two inches on completing the wheel (see par. 256 by analogy). If the column is at single rank distance the two's wheel individually. Under the present tactics the company can never be in four ranks, neither are there any counter-marches whatever. The Journal strongly recommends H. G. N. to forget that Hardee, Tacy or Scott ever wrote on tactics, and to begin to study Upton's Tactics on the same basis as if he were a green recruit. The principles of the new tactics are so different from those of the old ones that a man drilled under Casey finds that he has to unlearn everything he ever knew to succeed with Upton. Natural and inverted orders are abolished entirely, and the set of fours is the unit of the new tactics.

H. M.—The address of the Sharps Firearm Manufacturing Co. is Sharps Rifle Co., Bridgeport, Conn.

E. R. B.—Gen. Ames (Adelbert) resigned February 23, 1870. Gen. Kiddoo is on the retired list.

V. L.—An admiral has no power of appointment to the Naval Academy. An appointment must be obtained from a member of Congress or the President of the U. S., who has the power to appoint ten cadets at large and one from the District of Columbia. Each member and delegate in Congress has the power to nominate one cadet for appointment previous to July 1. If not appointed by that time the Secretary of the Navy may fill the vacancy.

BOOKS FOR SOLDIERS.

Mr. G. J. Maxwell, 306 South 10th street, Philadelphia, Pa., writes: For some time past I have noticed in the JOURNAL articles stating that the need of chaplains, and of proper religious works, was greatly felt at some of our Army posts. In reference to this subject I would say, that I shall at any time be pleased to hear from any officer or enlisted man in reference to the wants of the post at which they may be stationed, in either of these respects. I lately had the pleasure of calling the attention of some of our citizens to a letter which appeared in your paper on this subject, and from the responses which were made to it, I was satisfied that the same spirit of patriotism which prompted the people of Philadelphia to be the first to organize a committee to take care of our soldiers during the late war as they passed through our city, still existed, and that it was only necessary to call their attention to our soldiers' wants in this new direction, to meet with a hearty response. One gentleman who donated a number of works said he had been in the habit of sending such books to a party in New York for that purpose, but never could tell whether they reached the soldiers, for whom they were given. In reply I informed him that any donation he made through me he should hear from. The officer in command of the post to which the books previously alluded to were sent, acknowledged their receipt with that promptness and courtesy for which Army officers are so distinguished. The Secretary of War has kindly given an order to forward any donation of books that I may collect for this purpose.

AIDS TO SAFE NAVIGATION.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR: The London Times of Nov. 3 contained an article descriptive of Sir William Thompson's patent sounding machine. While the reel, brake, winding gear and steel wire are great improvements in sounding at full speed, they are too cumbersome for general use, except on board large vessels such as the trans-Atlantic steamers.

Ericsson's lead, devised by Captain Ericsson more than 30 years since, which is supplied to all our men-of-war, measures the depth in the same manner, by the compression of a volume of air. It is entirely reliable to the depths of 30 fathoms, after which depth the divisions become too close for accurate reading. The valve must also be kept in good order, otherwise leakage vitiates the reading. The chemical registry is evidently an improvement.

Burt's buoy and nipper, is also a very convenient and accurate measure of soundings. Soundings may be obtained by these instruments and the common lead and line in 30 fathoms at the speed of 10 knots, as fully verified by the writer, who has made it a practice to use one or both when coasting, and not in sufficient doubt of his position to stop for an "up and down" sounding.

W. N. J.

HITHERTO the Porte has made the permission for the English fleet to pass the Dardanelles depend upon the previous conclusions of an alliance. Recent diplomatic reports, current in Vienna, says the London *Daily News* correspondent, assert that a formula has been found whereby England could obtain that privilege without her neutral attitude being altered.

The number of German officers fighting in the Russian ranks (says the Berlin correspondent of the London *Morning Post*) is much greater than is generally supposed. At the commencement of the campaign, when it was believed in St. Petersburg that a simple promenade to Constantinople would suffice to crush the Ottoman Empire, the admission of any foreigners into the Russian army was strictly forbidden. The disastrous defeats last summer, however, induced Gen. Miljutine, the Minister of War, somewhat to depart from the rule, and finally to receive foreigners with open arms. Only one condition—viz., severance of all connection with military authorities at home—is now imposed on the enlistment of foreign officers. Of Germans in the Russian service, the majority were sent to Asia Minor.

The Russian *Morski Sbornik*, in an article on "Artillery Fire in Naval Warfare," arrives at the following conclusions: "For the sake, both of accuracy of hitting and destructive effect, a convergent fire is best. If a single shot could be sent from a gun of such calibre that its projectile equalled the weight of metal of the full broadside, the single shot would be superior to the broadside both in accuracy and destructive power, and this superiority would be greater the longer the range, especially if we take into account a certain

divergence in the lines of fire of the broadside guns, which is necessary to prevent the projectiles clashing, and the greater flatness of the trajectories of very heavy projectiles. Hence the best method of securing to the full the advantages of a convergent fire is to increase the calibre of naval ordnance. If naval engagements were decided by the first shot, it would undoubtedly be best to arm vessels of all rates with a single gun combining in itself the full weight of metal which the vessel is capable of throwing. But cannon foundries have not yet produced a gun capable of throwing a shot equal to the full weight of metal of the larger types of ironclads, and the loading of such monster guns as have been produced is too long and tedious an operation to allow a vessel carrying a single gun only to fight two opponents at once, as may be necessary in a general engagement. A single gun, or a few guns, afford the further advantage of increased facilities for cover, and enlarge the space available for other purposes; on the other hand, supposing the first shot to miss, all depends upon which side can fire again the quickest—in this respect the smaller guns have the advantage. For monster guns to have the advantage under all circumstances, their loading must be effected much more quickly than at present."

PHOTOGRAPHS AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.—Messrs. C. D. Fredricks and Co. have recently reduced the price of their beautifully finished Imperial Photographs to \$6 per doz., about one-half the price usually charged by other first class establishments. Their Gallery is at the corner of Broadway and 9th St., with sky light on first floor.

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JONES—ARMSTRONG.—At Norfolk, Va., on Dec. 12, at the residence of the bride's mother, by the Rev. Dr. Newton, Col. ARTHUR H. JONES, of Essex Co., Va., to Miss REBECCA ARMSTRONG, daughter of the late Captain Wm. M. Armstrong, U. S. Navy. No cards.

MOSEBY—COLEGATE.—On the 29th November, 1877, by the Rev. J. J. Keane, Lieutenant THEODORE MOSEBY, Twenty-second U. S. Infantry, to AUGUSTA McBLAIN, eldest daughter of James Colegate, of Washington, D. C.

DIED.

NAILL.—At the residence of his parents, Norristown, Pa., on Dec. 11, of diphtheria, GEORGE PATTERSON, aged 5 years, 8 months and 3 days, son of Mrs. E. J. and Lieut.-Commander F. I. Naille, U. S. N.

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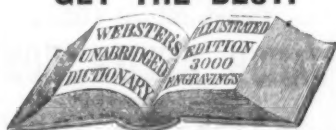
ST. NICHOLAS for January, which will be ready December 20th, contains GEORGE MACDONALD'S "Letter to American Boys," the beginning of a CHRISTMAS STORY, "The Ravens and the Angels," by the author of "Chronicles of the Schonberg-Cotta Family," two papers of the "HOW" series—"How to make an Iceboat," and "How to be an Agreeable Guest," and the brisk "Skating-Song," rescued by the editor from the posthumous papers of THEODORE WINTHROP; a tale of soldierly hardihood, "The Coolest Man in Russia," "DERBY'S CHRISTMAS," a story full of sweetness and lovely home-life; "The King and the Three Travellers," a tale of funny tales, with a fine picture by LA FARGE; chapters from serials by LOUISA M. ALCOOT and GUSTAVUS FRANKENSTEIN, and the rest of its ample contents—well, we will not attempt further description.

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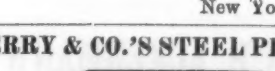
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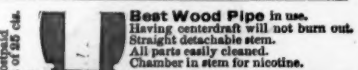
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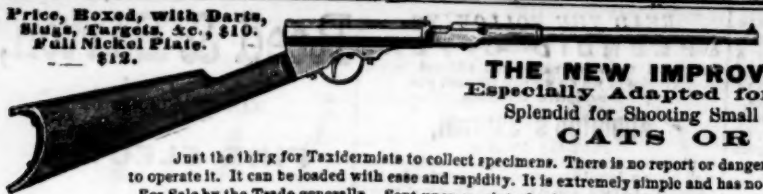
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